SPARTANA

ISSUE 1 | AUGUST 2019

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spread design by Mikayla Havison

Dear Reader,

As the 2019-20 school year begins, I wanted to take the opportunity to introduce Homestead's monthly publication, the Spartana. Each month, you can find a range of articles here to help you stay informed on school happenings. The purpose of the Spartana is to educate students and staff on issues impacting the school, as well as provide a space for student expression. If you have a story, comment, concern or question please contact us at the spartana@gmail.com. We are looking forward to hearing from you and learning your stories.

Sincerely,

Mikayla Havison

In This Issue:

Editor-In-Chief
Mikayla Havison
Executive Editors
June Hill & Emmalyn Meyer
Business Manager
Matthew Quintos
Sponsor
Theresa Nowak

Start strong to finish strong

Clubs Catalogue

Matthew Quintos
Business Manger

Key Club

"Community service without the court order"

Key Club is a great way for students to get involved in community service. To be considered a member in good standing, students must complete a total of 50 hours. Students are expected to complete a minimum of 25 hours on their own and 25 through Key Club sponsored events. It is always a good idea to complete the necessary Key Club sponsored hours in the beginning of the school year because it can be quite a competitive process later on.

DECA

"Not in DECA? What the hecka?"

Interested in business? Want to meet new people? Join the Homestead DECA club! The Homestead High School DECA Club has consistently gone to nationals and placed amongst the top in the nation. The DECA program offers a wide variety of event types and categories for students to compete in. Additionally, students have the opportunity to compete individually or in groups of two or three depending on the event.

Foreign Language Clubs

"Hola, bonjour, hallo and slave to you"

If you are interested in furthering your understanding of language and culture you have learned in your foreign language class, foreign language clubs may be a viable option for you. Clubs exist for Spanish, French, Latin, and German. After winter break, students of the clubs host an event known as the Taste of Homestead. It features food from countries around the world and a chance to learn more about the cultures of each of them. Additionally, many of the clubs provide an opportunity to travel.

Student Government

"Pathway to politics"

Student Government is an excellent way to represent your peers on issues that are pertinent to the school. The Homestead Student Government votes to formally establish new clubs and provide funding for student activities. The Homestead Student Government also plans prom and the semi-formal dance, as well as events like the blood drive.

FCCLA

"Cookig up a storm"

Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) consists of fun activities relating to Family and Consumer Sciences such as: Adult Roles, Child Development, Cadet Teaching, Nutrition and Wellness, Interior Design, Fashion and Textiles, Food Science, and Interpersonal Relationships. Club members have the opportunity to compete against other FCCLA members at state and national competitions in which members create a project based on a category of Family and Consumer Sciences.

spread design by Mikayla Havison

"Leaning left"

If you are interested in the Democratic Party and progressive politics, you should attend a Young Progressives meeting. Members can enjoy snacks, discussion of current events and the occasional debate with the Republican leaning Young Americans for Freedom Club. The club also hosts guest speakers frequently, including people like Courtney Tritch, who ran for Senate. The topics change weekly, so make sure to stop by.

Young Progressives

"The elephants in the room"

If you are interested in the Republican Party and conservative politics, you should attend a Young Americans for Freedom meeting. Members can enjoy snacks, discussion of current events and the occasional debate with the Democratic leaning Young Progressives Club. The sponsor is Mr. Byle and they meet weekly to discuss current events.

YAF

"The door to diplomacy"

Come join Homestead Model United Nations if you are interested in politics, diplomacy and geopolitics. The club often hosts mock United Nations sessions, where students pretend to be a delegate from a country and debate foreign policy. The club involves a lot of learning procedures, as well as cooperation on the international stage.

Model UN

"Thinking out loud"

Members participate in various events such as radio broadcasting, congress, Public Forum Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, discussion, impromptu speaking, extemporaneous speaking, humorous/dramatic interpretation, prose/poetry interpretation, duo interpretation, Program Oral Interpretation, original performance, original oratory, and informative speaking. Students develop skills in teamwork, leadership, communication, analysis, evaluation, and persuasion, as well as gain confidence in public speaking.

Speech and Debate

"It's a hit"

If you are going back and forth deciding to join this club, deliberate no more. Ping Pong club has been a continual hit with students looking to hone their ping pong skills or compete in tournaments. They have several ping pong tables and have a tournament at the end of the year to determine which student has the strongest ping pong skills.

Ping Pong Club

"Take pride in who you are"

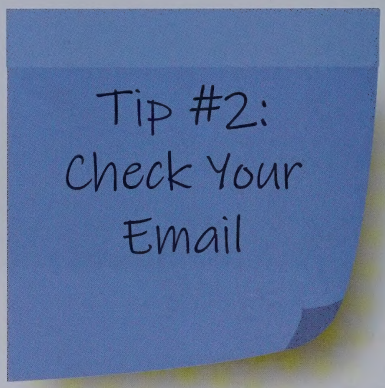
The Gay-Straight Alliance Club is a support group for LGBTQ+ teens and activists. The group typically meets bi-weekly and discuss LGBTQ+ rights, as well as create a safe space for open discussion and acceptance.

Gay-Straight Alliance

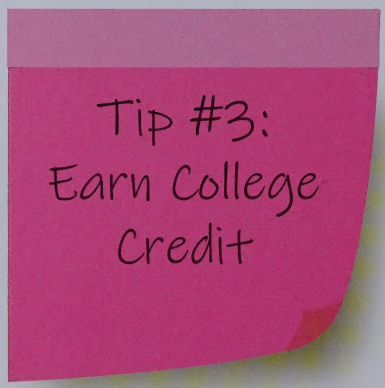
New to Homestead?

EMMALYN MEYER & MIKAYLA HAVISON
Executive Editor/Editor-In-Chief

Have you noticed how big Homestead is? If you are lucky, you do not have to walk all the way around the school every day. But if your schedule looks like mine, each period is in a different location. Either way, the best tip I can give is not to use your locker between classes - the passing period is only five minutes, after all. Take your backpack with everything you need to every class, instead.



One of the perks of becoming a highschooler is gaining access to your own Gmail account, which you can use to communicate with students and staff; however, prior to using your email, there are a few things you should know. Although Canvas is used for testing, homework and discussions, teachers rarely use its messaging feature. If you hope to get in contact with a teacher or staff member, make sure to try Gmail prior to Canvas messaging, unless they specify otherwise. Additionally, try to avoid using it for personal conversations and make sure to follow the user agreement. Teachers also become frustrated with students who email during lectures or class activities, so make sure not to use it at an inappropriate time.

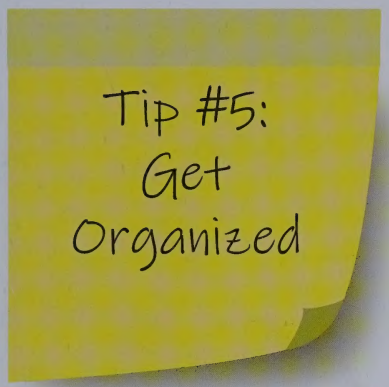


If you plan to go to college, make sure you check out your options for earning college credit while in high school - including Dual Credit, AP, and more. Assistant Principal Susan Summers is very knowledgeable on this topic - talk to her in person or email her at ssummers@sacs.k12.in-.us. To learn about some of the differences between Dual Credit and AP classes, check out my article "How to Make the Most of High School" on hhsspartana.com.

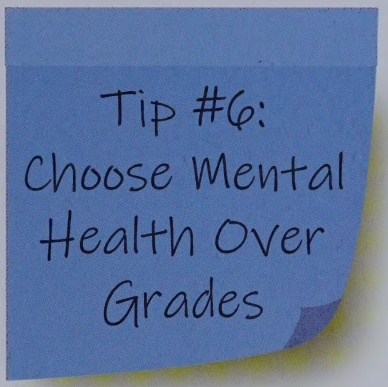
Joining extracurriculars and clubs within Homestead can definitely inhance your high school experience. There are athletic and academic teams, as well as fun clubs where you can learn new things, like Euchre Club and Spanish Club. Not only do you meet new people through these activities, but many of them also look good to colleges, like Key Club and the Spartana (wink wink).

spread design by Emmalyn Meyer

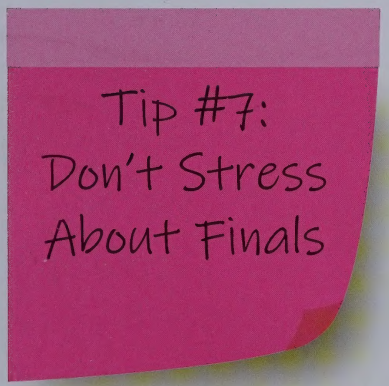
Here are some helpful tips to get you started on the right track.



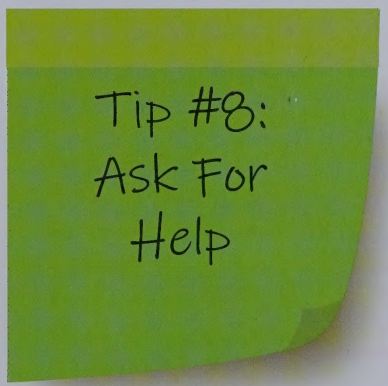
I'll admit, I am one of the worst procrastinators you'll ever meet, so I should probably take my own advice. Because the homework load at Homestead tends to be pretty heavy, it is important to get a head start on your assignments and complete them diligently. Plan out your work each night and keep in mind what assignments will be due later in the week or month - carve out a time to work on those ahead of time (trust me, starting my English essays or APUSH notecards the night before they were due was a very bad idea and lost me a lot of sleep).



On that note, sleep is far more important than you think it is. One thing that I've learned throughout my high school experience is that there is such thing as working too hard, and it can take a toll on your mental health. Sleep is a major factor in determining how your day goes. If you're not getting the amount of sleep you should (and this kind of contradicts what I've said, but eight hours is actually impossible to acheive every night - go for seven instead), you won't focus in school and your brain's schedule will be off until you catch up. If you find that you're yawning all of the time and missing everything your teacher says, you might want to think about why this is happening and either cut back on your classes or get more organized so that you complete your work more quickly. Getting a certain grade in a class should never be your first priority.



When finals season comes around in December and May, you will hear the majortiy of the student population talking about all of the final exams they will have to take, terrified of failing. Do not fret. If your teacher has done their job correctly, you have spent the last semester preparing for the exam. Here are some tips to ease your mind: first, use any study materials your teacher gives you. If there is a lack thereof, go over notes and worksheets you have done. If you're still confused, go in to talk to your teacher - they will be willing to help at this time of the year. Since you're reading this now, start your year off strong! Honestly, that's the best way to prepare for your finals.



Despite the freedom you have in selecting classes at Homestead, class work can still become difficult. If you find yourself struggling on a topic in math, make sure to check out the math resource room. This year, it has moved to room ____ and has acquired a new sign to help you find it.Although math is the only department with an official resource room, there are still other methods of getting help in subjects. In seminar or study hall, there are often peer tutors to provide advice. Additionally, the foreign language department has a teacher tutoring system that rotates daily. If in doubt, ask your teacher and there is sure to be someone who can help.

Schedules

Tuesday, August 13

Advisory - 7:45-8:00

1st - 8:06-8:48

2nd - 8:54-9:36

3rd - 9:42-10:24

4th - 10:30-11:12

5th - 11:18-12:59

A Lunch.....11:12-11:39

Class.....11:44-12:59

Class.....11:18-11:39

B Lunch.....11:39-12:06

Class.....12:11-12:59

Class.....11:18-12:06

C Lunch.....12:06-12:33

Class.....12:38-12:59

Class.....11:18-12:33

D Lunch.....12:33-12:59

6th - 1:05-1:47

7th - 1:53-2:35

spread design by Emmalyn Meyer

Welcome back!

Regular School Day

1st - 7:45-8:30

2nd - 8:36-9:21

3rd - 9:27-10:14

4th - 10:20-11:05

5th - 11:11-12:52

A Lunch.....11:05-11:32

Class.....11:35-12:52

Class.....11:11-11:32

B Lunch.....11:32-11:59

Class.....12:04-12:52

Class.....11:11-11:59

C Lunch.....11:59-12:26

Class.....12:31-12:52

Class.....11:11-12:26

D Lunch.....12:26-12:52

6th - 12:58-1:43

7th - 1:49-2:35

PHOTO BY EMMALYN MEYER

The J List

Backpack Necessities

JUNE HILL
Executive Editor

Each month I (June duh) recommend some of my favorite things. I've done books, local restaurants, summer essentials and much more, but this month because school is starting, I decided to list the top 20 backpack necessities. Sure most of this gear is pretty obvious, but hopefully if you already have these items you feel more prepared, and ready to start the year off strong. Please enjoy!

spread design by Jun

HOMESTEAD

927 926 925 924 923 920 919
928 918
930 929 950c 950b 922 921 917 916
932 931 950 950a 915 914
934 933 913 912
9344 801 936 935 937 907a 906
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SECOND FLOOR
Courtyard
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Aux. Gym 1 424 430 Cafeteria 507 506 508 510 512 514 523
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Main Gym 410 303 316 314 312 310 602 600b 600a 622 620 618 604a 604b 604c 606 608 610 607 609 611 616 614 612
Athletic Office
416 408 406 I.M.C. 301 705 704 706 708 710 712 713 711
414 412 402 400 404 301b 301a 703 Work Room 702 700 Courtyard 714 716 718 715 717 719
109C 109D 109B 109A 731 729 727 725 723
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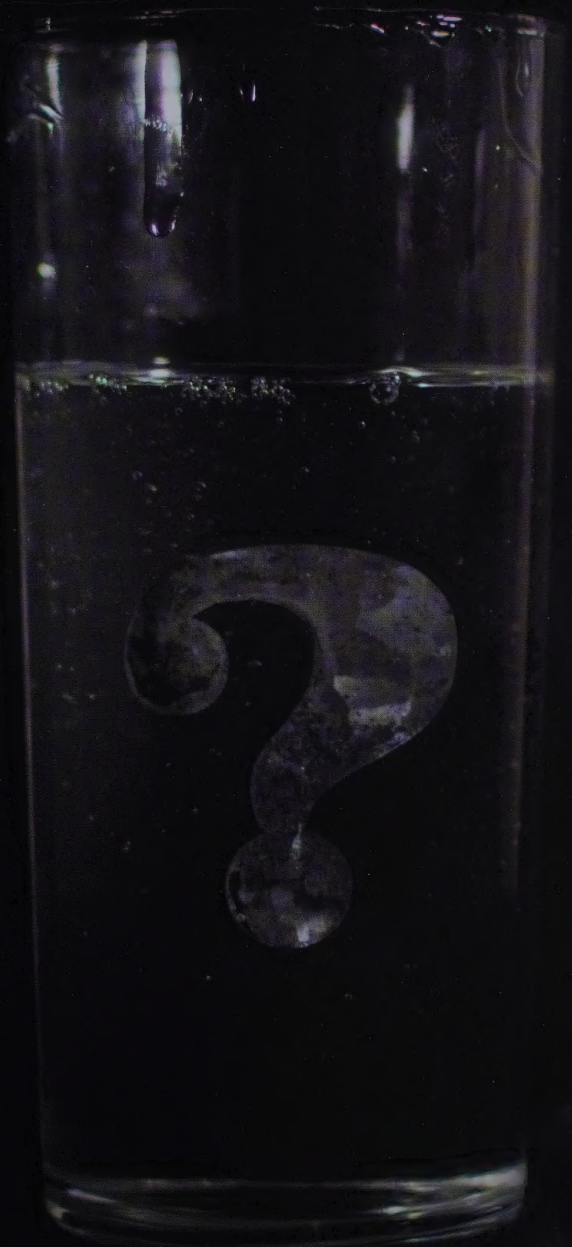
100 102 104 108 114 116
FIRST FLOOR

Spartana

Issue 2 | September 2019



Find out what happened when the Spartana tested the drinking water
see pg. 10

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

With this issue, the Spartana has a message they would like every student to consider. With the recent events at Bishop Dwenger (whether the allegations are factual or not), it is essential that as a school, we decide what it means to be a Spartan.

We often criticize others school for viewing our school as elitist; however, how are we to prove these accusations false, if we are disrespectful, demeaning and cruel to the schools we compete against?

Why does it have to be us against everyone? Is there not value in humility and kindness? These are the questions we have to ask ourselves as we move forward.

Personally, I believe that you should not have to be the loudest, the rowdiest or the richest to be a Spartan. Instead, a Spartan is someone who speaks up against destructive behaviors, encourages comradery and values respect.

In general, it is the job of the Spartana to be the voice of the student body, but in times where members of the student body serve as hinderers of the common good, it is our duty as journalists to speak out.

The Spartana condemns any vandalism or obscene cheers that occured at the Bishop Dwenger game. They reflected poorly on our school and the hard work students and staff put in to make Homestead successful.

In the future, the Spartana hopes that students consider the negative impacts that actions may have on Homestead's relationship with the community.

As always, please feel free to email thespartana@gmail.com if you would like to submit a letter to the editor, have any concerns, questions, comments or story leads.

Sincerely,
Mikayla Havison

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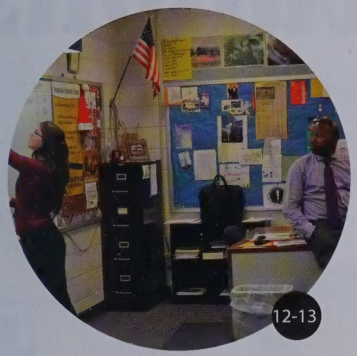


4-5 College Applications
Take a look at the process behind applying for college and some helpful tips, including scholarships and more.

6-7 New To You
Take a look at the teachers new to Homestead and learn what they're excited for in the upcoming school year.

8-9 Humans of Homestead
Meet some of the many twins at Homestead and learn about what it's like to live with someone your same age.

10-11 The Water Is Safe (We Think...)
The Spartana staff tested the school drinking fountains for clean water. See the results and learn more about safe drinking water.

12-13 Growth Mindset vs. Fixed Mindset
Check out this story to learn about growth mindset and how you can be the most efficient this school year.

14-15 Behind The Rules
Take a closer look at some of Homestead's rules and why they are enforced.

16-17 J-List Album Picks
The J-List is back this year and for this issue, June covers some her favorite music albums.

18-19 Teen Movies
Learn about how movies stereotype and innaccurately portray teenagers.

College Applications

The time has come.
Every year, the much-dreaded college application process begins for Homestead's seniors, and it never becomes any easier.

ELYSSA HUFF
Writer

"It's a really difficult and time-consuming process," Daniel Bean (12) said. "It's hard to juggle my hard schedule while making enough time to work on my (application) and apply to colleges."

For seniors in today's era, it is not uncommon to apply to a high amount and a wide variety of colleges.

"I'm applying to 14 colleges total, at present count," Bethany Villaruz (12) said. "I'm applying to a lot of different places, from Notre Dame (University) to Kenyon (College)."

When applying to many colleges, most students say that The Common Application, an online application in which a student can fill out their information and then send it to several schools, is useful and efficient.

"I would say that the Common App is probably the most helpful resource that someone can use," Ethan Ledbetter (12) said. "It's helped me to find a lot of colleges and be able to apply to quite a few that I wouldn't have been able to otherwise."

However, applying to so many colleges is not without its drawbacks. The entire application process, for example, is extremely expensive --more so than what most people would usually think about or consider.

"In my experience, application fees range from $60-90. If you're submitting an art supplement, which I am, that can be an additional fee that just depends on the college. Test scores, like the SAT or ACT, are also expensive unless you send them immediately after you take the tests," Villaruz said.

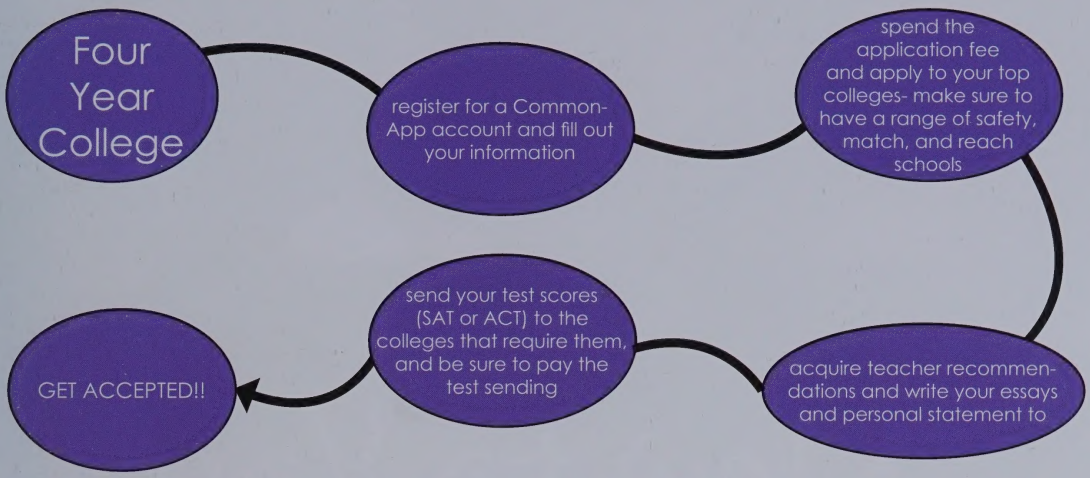
Despite the application expenses, fee waivers are available to those that apply, which would greatly lower the cost of the application process.

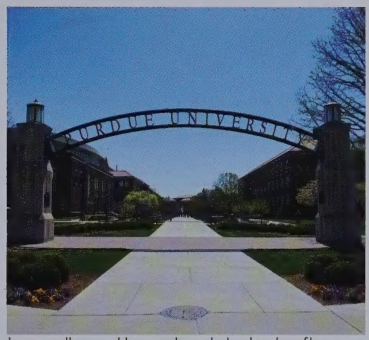
"Typically students have to be on free-reduced lunch to qualify, but if a student qualifies for the SAT/ACT fee waiver, they'll also qualify here," Ledbetter said. "On the Common App, it asks you if you want a fee waiver, and if you say yes, you just have to fill out a form for why you would qualify."

The price of college itself has increased exponentially over the last few decades; according to Forbes, between 1989 and 2016, the cost of a four-year degree doubled, even after inflation, and the price of college is increasing at eight times the rate of American wages (Maldonado, 2018). Even with these added costs, there are ways to lower the cost of tuition as a whole.

spread design by Anna Topmiller

What do You Have to Do?


Four Year College
register for a Common-App account and fill out your information
spend the application fee and apply to your top colleges- make sure to have a range of safety, match, and reach schools
acquire teacher recommendations and write your essays and personal statement to
send your test scores (SAT or ACT) to the colleges that require them, and be sure to pay the test sending
GET ACCEPTED!!



Indiana University and Purdue University are two colleges Homestead students often attend after high school.

The "Think College" display outside of the Student Services office is a good place to get ideas of where you should go.

"Scholarships are everywhere, and they're super easy to find," Ledbetter said. "Homestead has them, as does the College Board. I started applying to them sophomore year just so I'd have a head start and be considered a top priority for some of the better scholarships."

College applications are an extremely rigorous process, and students stress the importance of time management and keeping track of the entire process.

"I have a lot of homework already, so to throw college applications into the mix is a lot," Bean said. "I also have a lot of extracurriculars that take up time, so I don't have a lot of free time to set aside time to work on my application."

Because of all the time and money put into the process, students should also consider options that do not include a traditional four-year college.

"Community college is absolutely a great option for students. Students would be really surprised at the number of kids who start out at Purdue Fort Wayne or Ivy Tech. It's not a bad way to start out your postsecondary career because it gives you an opportunity to make an academic transition first," Rachel Bracey,high school counselor, said. "There are also a lot of certificates and programs for more specialized trades that aren't necessarily four or two-year degree options. Along with Apprenticeship programs, there are a lot of other options for students who don't necessarily want a four-year degree."

Even if you are not a senior, there are still ways to prepare for applying to college or another program as a younger student.

"If you know where you want to apply, I would recommend sending your test scores right after you take them," Bean said. "The College Board offers three free score sends to the colleges of your choice, so that could save you quite a bit of money later on."

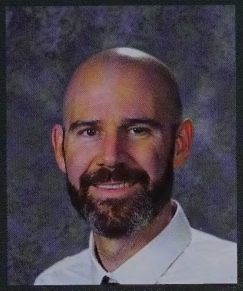
SAT scores cost $11.25 to send per college, and ACT scores are $16 if priority sending is selected. If not, ACT scores are $12. Fee waivers are available to those that apply.

College is a major decision for students, and is one that should not be taken lightly. The most important part of the application is to breathe and complete each step as needed.

Jennifer Edwards
Guidance

Derek Nichols
Special Education

Tim Hower
Math



Lisa Hoffer
Special Education

New to You

Passion of new staff takes school by storm

Rebbeca Schaefer
Special Education

Jackie Brooks
Special Education

Brady Koehlinger
Physics

Chris Drake
Spanish

spread design by Mikayla Havison

MIKAYLA HAVISON
Editor-In-Chief

This year, the school has hired ten new teachers and staff members that will be advising students this year and years to come. Although these staff members are new to Homestead, for many of them, this is not their first experience teaching and helping students.

As the school year begins, the new staff is beginning to settle in thanks to help from students and staff; however, due to the school's size, many students are still unfamiliar with the new additions to the school. Some of these new staff members now share their stories and goals for this new experience:

Brady Koelinger- Physics

One of this year's new teachers is physics teacher, Brady Koelinger. Despite being new to the district, this is not Koelinger's first rodeo at teaching.

"I taught for 23 years at Northside High School," Koelinger said.

Koelinger is also a native to the Fort Wayne area, as he grew up in New Haven and attended New Haven High School.

Although Koelinger has hand a long-standing appreciation for the sciences and math, he has not always known that teaching would be his career.

"I went to college to major in engineering and somehow ended up in physics and then ended up with an education endorsement and started teaching," Koelinger said. "There wasn't an inspiring moment where I decided to become a teacher."

Even though teaching was not a childhood dream, Koelinger has come to find it fulfilling and enjoys working with students.

"I really enjoy teaching. When I close my door and teach, I have a really good time" Koelinger said.

One of Koelinger's favorite parts of teaching physics is that the teaching method differs from the traditional classroom.

"I think physics is a really different class for kids because they are used to just coming in to learn information, where as physics is learning problem solving and critical thinking" Koelinger said. "I try to get students to think about why something is right, as opposed to just remembering things."

In his first weeks at the school, Koelinger has already noticed some differences between teaching at Homestead and teaching elsewhere.

"I've been impressed with the culture here," Koelinger said. "You can tell that students know what their expectations are and they are willing to do the right thing."

In his free time, Koelinger enjoys exploring the outdoors and spending time with his wife and four kids.

Tim Hower- Math

Many students have come to know Michael Hower, a chemistry teacher who was new to the school last year. This year, the school welcomes his brother, Tim Hower, who is teaching math. Like many of the new teachers this year, this is not Hower's first teaching experience and he taught at two other schools before coming to Homestead.

"My brother got a job here last year and he really talked it up," Hower said. "He talked about how the kids are very respectful and responsible."

Additionally, this is not the first time the brothers have worked at the same school.

"I never see my brother here," Hower said. "Our last school we were at, we had rooms right next to each other. We could talk anytime between classes."

Although it is a change for Hower not see his brother as often at work, he is still enjoying his experience.

"It's very big," Hower said. "It's a lot to get used to. The building is huge, lots of people, but also tons of people to help me out. Everyone is really willing to help."

At the school, Hower is continuing to fulfill his life long dream of being a teacher.

"I was always the kid that got my homework done so I would help everyone else in the room," Hower said. "I thought it would be enjoyable to find a job where I can serve others and get paid to do it."

Additionally, Hower always knew math was the class for him

"It was never a doubt which subject I wanted to teach," Hower said.

Now, as a math teacher, Hower is sharing his love of math with students, as well as encouraging them to reach their full potential.

"I know what they could do, I see it, and I want them to do it," Hower said.

Outside of the classroom, Hower enjoys spending time with his four children, who are all under the age of eight. He is looking forward to teaching students this year.

Jennifer Edwards- Guidance

With the departure of Jason Wilson, a former guidance counselor at the school, the school has hired a new guidance counselor. This counselor, Jennifer Edwards already has experience in counseling and is looking forward to getting to know Homestead.

"Prior to coming here I was a counselor at DeKalb High School for two years and then prior to that I was a counselor at Noblesville High School for five years," Ewards said.

Before Edwards became a counselor, Edwards was also an English teacher in the Indianapolis area.

"I was an English teacher for three years and I really love teaching," Edwards said.

Although Edwards enjoyed the teaching experience, she feels is passionate about her current career as a school counselor.

"There are parts of teaching that I miss, but if I am going to compare and contrast the two, I'm very much where I feel I am supposed to be as a counselor," Edwards said. "In a class of thirty it's a lot harder [to make one-on-one connections]."

Despite the difficulty deciding between teaching and counseling, Edwards has always known she wanted to work with students.

"Aside from when I was a little girl and wanted to be a Broadway dancer, for a long time I have wanted to work in education," Edwards said.

Now, as a counselor at the school, Edwards looks forward to the positive changes she can make in the lives of students.

"I am really passionate about students getting the opportunity to explore what they want to do with the rest of their lives, so I love the advising side of what counselors get to do," Edwards said." I also enjoy that connection I get to make with students. If there is more of a personal or social need, and working together to make it a better experience for them."

Edwards hopes that students will reach out and take advantage of the guidance department, whether for personal or academic needs.

"I want [students] to know that they can come to me with any type of a question or concern or issue they have," Edwards said. "I am not here to dole out judgement, I am here to help them."

So far, Edwards appreciates the supportive environment of the school and the opportunity she has to be apart of it.

"Everyone here has been so helpful and kind as I transition into learning how things are done procedurally here," Edwards said. "My son goes to school in this district, so I enjoy being a part of the community."

Edwards is grateful for the chance to work at the school.

"Homestead is a phenomenal school, that's no secret," Edwards said.

Humans of Homestead

CLAIRE ELLIOTT & HAFSA IBRAHIM
Executive Editor

According to the University of Texas' Population Research Center, out of 1000 people, 32 are twins. But what is being a twin really like? This issue we interviewed four sets of twins (one pair from each grade level), and gained some insight into what it's like having an identical counterpart. Learn about the amusing stories these twins have to offer as well as some of their own personal goals and experiences.

'20

Jessica & Erika Poiry

Erika's Story: Last year in July we went to Colorado and were backpacking in the Rocky Mountains. All of a sudden our leader got all serious, and goes, 'look at me...' then we all turn around to see what it was, not looking at him obviously, and he continued, '...that's a bear.' We all freaked out and went down the hill slowly to get away from it. Jessica, being daring, decided to sleep outside the tent. Then, the next morning I got woken up to Brianna's hand around my neck and it scared me horribly. Then she shushed me quickly and said, 'There is a bear right outside of our tent!' I quickly slid under the edge of the tent and grabbed her [Jessica's] sleeping bag and pulled her in with us. She had no idea the bear was there, and still, to this day, wonders why I freaked out so much because, 'it was just a bear and didn't hurt her.' I don't think I will ever understand that girl's thought process despite her being my twin," Erika Poiry (12) said.

Jessics's Story: "She gets mad at me over nothing and then more mad when I get mad back. We always argue about taking each other's toilet paper. I swear my toilet paper rolls always go missing and I will go into her room and find them and she will never ever admit that she's taken them. She could literally just take a handful but yet she takes the whole roll every single time and leaves me with absolutely nothing," Jessica Poiry (12) said.

Jessica (left) and Erika have a lot of fun memories together.

'22

Noah & Ian Smith

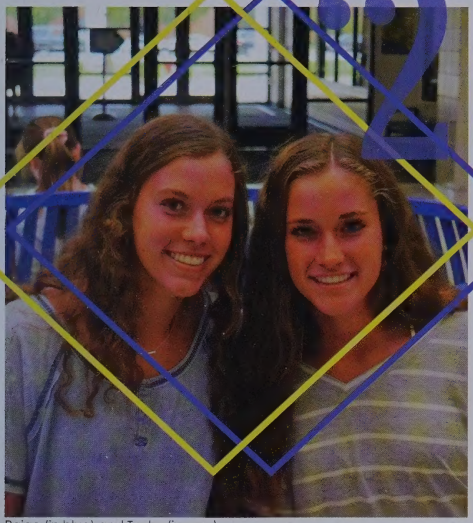
Ian's Story: "Being a twin is definitely a lot of fun but it can also be a bit competitive. We do the same sport, soccer, and playing together is one of the best things ever. Winning big games together is one of the most awesome things I can think of. Last year we won our division and got put into one of the top leagues," Ian Smith (10) said.

Noah's Story: "We are identical, so people mix us up all the time. But, being a twin, since we do lots of things together, is really fun. One of our most fun experiences together is going on spring break. We go out to Florida and go jet skiing on the ocean and hang out on the beach," Noah Smith (10) said.

Noah (left) and Ian enjoy going to Florida on spring break.

spread design by June Hill

'21 Paige & Taylor Archibold



Paige (in blue) and Taylor (in grey), both want to go into the medical field.

Taylor's Story: Being a twin is one of the coolest experiences and I wouldn't ever want to change that. I automatically have a built in best friend who I can tell anything to. We are both into similar things like soccer. We also have the same friends and do almost everything together. Usually that's a good thing, unless we are mad at each other.

I want to be a hospice or ICU nurse because three of my family members were put in the ICU and later placed into hospice care. I feel like this was a calling and is something I'm very passionate about pursuing. Taylor enjoys playing soccer and is in biomed club. "I play soccer because it's something I love to do and I would like to play it in college. I joined biomed club to learn more about professions in the medical field."

Paige's Story: There are times when I say I hate being a twin, but I actually really enjoy it. We sometimes get into arguments about sharing clothes or Taylor setting a million different alarms, but it's nice to have a built in best friend that you can trust with anything. We're pretty much with each other 24/7 and it's fun to play soccer with her and drive while listening to music.

I've always wanted to be an orthodontist. I always enjoyed going to the orthodontist and dreaded going to the dentist. Hopefully I can study it in college.

'23 Levi & Isaac Hallman

Levi (in blue) and Isacc (in black), are both on the boy's soccer team.

Levi's Story: When Isaac and I were in preschool our parents would dress us alike. After a few days, they got a call from the preschool saying that they needed to dress us in different clothes because we were freaking the other kids out. The other preschoolers didn't understand the concept of twins so they thought that one person was in two places at once. That's something I always laugh about when I think of it.

I am always asked what it's like being a twin and I never know what to say. I usually say that it's hard to explain because it's all I've known. I really couldn't tell you the differences between being a twin and not being a twin because I don't know what it's like to not have a sibling who is your own age and shares the same interests, friends and room. But I do believe Isaac helped me to be my best self.

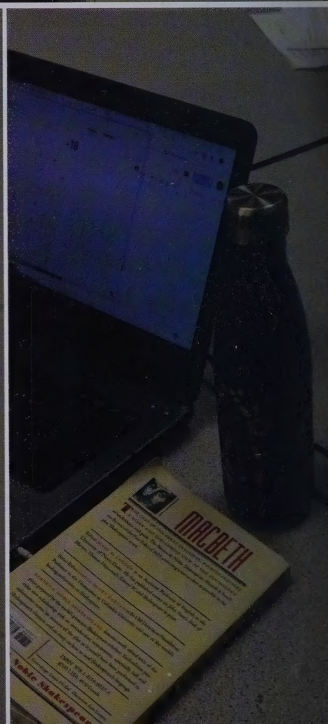
Isaac's Story: It's always awkward when the waiter hears the same thing twice from what looks like the same person. Since we have the same genes, we have pretty similar tastes so we usually end up getting the same thing. I always try to get my order in first so that I don't have to be the one to repeat an order!

I feel like without soccer my life would be much different. I started playing soccer when I was around five years old and started playing travel soccer in 6th grade. This year I am on the Homestead Varsity Soccer team as the starting goalkeeper. I think one thing that has really helped me as a player is my willingness to work hard. While some people like to goof off or mess around at practice, I take it seriously and work hard to get results. One thing I've learned from my soccer experience is how much hard work can pay off!

Twin Edition

The Water Is Safe (We Think...)

MATTHEW QUINTOS
Online Manager



Spartana Staff tested water fountains in the cafeteria and Freshman Academy for lead and other chemicals. See the results and how it will affect the school.

Many students have questioned the quality of the drinking water at Homestead. Some students insist on bringing pre-filled water bottles from home, while others trust that the Homestead fountain water is suitable for drinking.

"[The water] tastes fine," Bethany Villaruz (12) said. "Stop worrying about the lead, it's free water."

Currently, many drinking water fountains remain closed due to testing positive for lead last year. While 93% of fixtures did not test positive for lead, 77 fixtures in the SACS district did test above EPA recommended guidelines. There are 38 drinking fountains still in operation throughout the high school. In this issue, we decided to conduct our own independent lead and copper tests.

It is important to note that the Spartana was limited in funds for water testing, and our conclusions are by no means comprehensive. In a perfect world, we would have been able to test more drinking fountains for more than just the contaminants of lead and copper.

Additionally, it is important to note that all of the lead tests conducted for this issue were done on the drinking fountains still open for student use. We would still like to advise students not to use any of the currently closed drinking fountains.

Lead testing was conducted by CF Environmental Laboratories. CF Environmental is listed as a Certified Drinking Water Laboratory with the state of Indiana. On August 29th, two Homestead water fountains were tested. The basis on which water fountains were tested was decided by our staff members. Each member was asked to identify the "sketchiest" drinking fountain. The results from our informal survey determined that the drinking fountains in the Freshmen Academy and the cafeteria were going to be the test sites.

The EPA conducts water testing by taking a "first draw" of water. Like the name suggests, a "first draw" means that the water collected from the fixture needs to have been left sitting for at least six hours. This way, any potential hazardous material in the plumbing can successfully latch on or contaminate the drinking water. For water tests, we took samples first thing in the morning to achieve the necessary wait time. This ensured our sampling technique mimicked that of the EPA.

The Homestead drinking water, in the fountains we tested, did not have lead or copper levels that exceeded the stringent EPA limits. The drinking water in the cafeteria was found to have 0.306 mg/L of copper in its water. The EPA limit for copper in drinking water is 1.3 mg/L, so the cafeteria drinking water was well within the normal limits. In addition, the cafeteria drinking water had a lead total of less than 0.002 mg/L. The EPA limit for lead is 0.015 mg/L, so once again, the lead levels fell below the EPA limit. It is important to note that CF Environmental has a lead reporting limit of 0.002 mg/L, so the lead levels in the cafeteria drinking water fountain are below the reporting limit of CF Environmental.

The drinking water fountain tested in the Freshmen Academy also fell within the EPA limits. The Freshmen Academy drinking fountain was found to have 0.305 mg/L of copper in its water. The EPA limit for copper in drinking water is 1.3 mg/L, so the Freshmen Academy drinking water was well within the EPA limits. Additionally, the Freshmen Academy lead levels were found to be less than 0.002 mg/L. The EPA limit for lead is 0.015 mg/L, so once again the lead levels fell below the EPA limit.

It is important to note that CF Environmental has a lead reporting limit of 0.002 mg/L, so the lead levels in the Freshmen Academy drinking water fountain are below the reporting limit of CF Environmental.

While the water testing did come back normal, many drinking fountains throughout the school are still out-of-order. This requires students to walk longer distances to get a drink and face lengthened wait times upon their arrival. It does not appear as if the out-of-order drinking fountains will be fixed anytime soon; the Homestead administration is putting off plans for repairs and/or replacement due to the new school's construction.

As long as we have ample water access throughout the building we are not intending to invest in the units that are currently disconnected," Park Ginder, principal, said.

With improvement plans on hold, students will have to wait to enjoy full water access at the new high school.

Water by the numbers*

38 THERE ARE THIRTY EIGHT WORKING WATER FOUNTAINS IN HOMESTEAD.

0.002 The cafeteria drinking water had a lead total of less than 0.002 mg/L.

0.00 The Freshmen Academy drinking fountains had less than 0.002 mg/L of lead in them.

SEVENTY SEVEN 77 FIXTURES DID TEST ABOVE THE EPA RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES

93% Last year, 93% of the water fixtures in Homestead did not test positive for lead.

0.306 The cafeteria was found to have 0.306 mg/L of copper in its water.

0.305 The Freshman Academy was found to have 0.305 mg/L of copper in its water.

*According to an email from Dr. Phil Downs to the SACS school district

Growth Mindset vs. Fixed Mindset

The characteristics that define **success**

HAFSA IBRAHIM
Copy Editor

Every so often, a truly groundbreaking discovery occurs. Mindset was one of them, and Carol Dweck, a Stanford psychologist, is credited with discovering it. Her simple idea highlights how powerful our minds are, and that even our most fundamental beliefs can have a profound effect on how we interpret life.

The two basic mindsets that shape our lives are the growth mindset and fixed mindset. Understanding both belief systems is instrumental to changing the potentially harmful, preconceived notions we might have when we are faced with a problem or obstacle. It is crucial, when discarding bad habits, to be relentlessly persevering, motivated and driven. Do not be discouraged, and know that the ability to change lies within you.

The first type of mindset, the fixed mindset, is the idea that it is impossible to develop or grow mentally, physically or emotionally. This belief is particularly debilitating because people with a fixed mindset see themselves as an unchanging identity, and think that their failures and successes are predetermined.

Individuals with a fixed mindset do not try to improve or attempt new things, and are set on maintaining, instead of developing their abilities. In other words, they simply conclude that the characteristics inherited at birth, such as intelligence, emotional levels, sociability and confidence, are set in stone.

Oftentimes people with a fixed mindset will resist challenges or will try not to come in contact with difficult situations.

"I would like to avoid (challenges), but I know it's important to embrace them," Sophia Barton (11) said.

Other qualities that are attributed to a person with a fixed mindset include easily giving up on tough problems, ignoring useful constructive criticism, being highly self-critical or feeling threatened by the success of others.

"I am highly self-critical" Ethan Ledbetter (12) said. I often feel guilty because of what I've done or criticism that I've received."

It is normal to feel this way sometimes. Wanting to surrender to difficult tasks, dismissing helpful critiquing or feeling like you can't live up to someone else's standards is part of being human; however, to truly be the best version of yourself, you must push yourself to overcome these emotional barriers. This is a defining characteristic of a person with a growth mindset.

An important aspect of the growth mindset is that it creates a passion for learning, rather than a desire to please or be approved. People with the growth mindset see traits like creativity, intelligence and even relational connections such as love and friendship as things that can be cultivated and improved on. They are excited by potential obstacles and are willing to make mistakes.

"I love taking a challenge," Lydia Stout (10) said. "I'm a person that loves to be surprised with whatever I'm given. Plus, embracing challenges make them easier to handle."

While those with a fixed mindset see failure as a discouragement, those with a growth mindset take it as an opportunity to learn and grow.

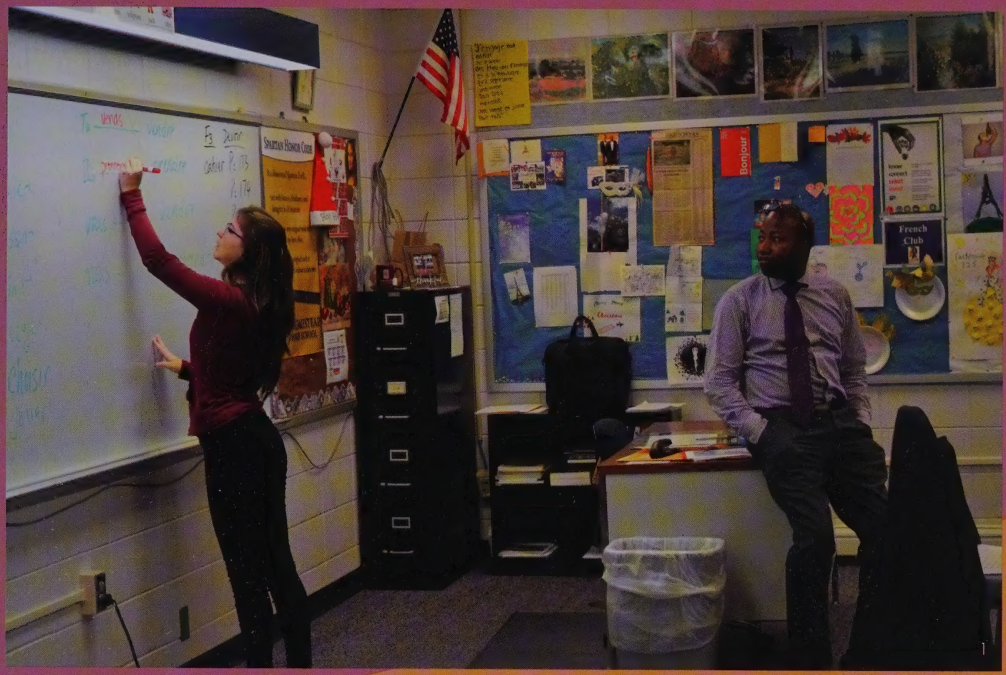
The mastery learning program, a program currently being implemented at Homestead, is aimed at giving students an opportunity to "relearn" information taught in class and "reassess" for a more satisfactory grade. Teachers in almost every area of study use a "Checkpoint A" and "Checkpoint B" as a way to allow a second chance at learning, pushing the progressiveness of the growth mindset and letting students feel like they can do better.

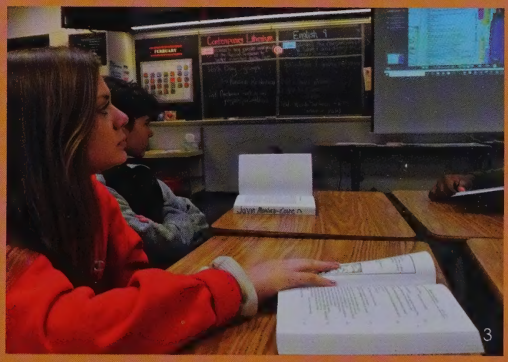
"If applied correctly, a student is able to have opportunities to show their learning as they progress throughout the semester," Holly Lyne (math teacher) said. "Not every student may comprehend (class content) on the same day as everyone else. Why should a student's grade reflect their learning at an instant rather than over an interval of time? Learning occurs when mistakes are corrected."

In order to develop the characteristics of a growth mindset, it is important to know that your mistakes are not what define you. You are capable and smart, and can overcome adversity if you have the will to do so. Although giving up is the easier option, especially when learning a new challenging concept or idea, pushing through to the end is much more rewarding and self-satisfying. Indeed, you will see a dramatic change in your own life if you simply believe in yourself and your own strengths. And do not forget, your abilities are not fixed; they can always be enhanced and refined.

So, if you are prepared to take on the difficulties that lay ahead of you this year with optimism and an open mind, I implore you to remember that every experience is geared towards your personal growth, and every struggle you are faced with can turn into an opportunity to better not only your mind, but your potential as well.

spread design by Hafsa Ibrahim





1. Walote Stephenson (11) comes to the board, stepping out of her comfort zone to test her skills in verb conjugating.
2. Tyler Litwinko (9) works diligently to complete checkpoint B in French class, a program aimed at helping students learn the importance of second chances.
3. Riley Horton (10) and Javin Monsey-Cowen (10) sit listening to their English teacher discuss *Romeo and Juliet*. Students with a growth mindset tend to be engaged and attentive during school.

Photos by Anna Topmiller and Rowen Halliwill

BEHIND THE RULES

KEELY GROHOLSKI
JACOB HOUSER
Writers

The Homestead Student Handbook is the backbone of our school. However, there have been some debates on whether the handbook is protecting us or just restricting us.

All importance acknowledged, some people just believe some rules shouldn't be in place. A frequent topic of discussion related to the matter is the dress code. "I think it's more restrictive for the girls because the shorts, skirts, and dresses have to be a certain length. The girls' dress code has many more stipulations than the guys'," Sarah Finnicum (10) said.

The restrictions do not stop there, as shoulders are not allowed to be shown under the circumstance that "the boys will be distracted".

The dress code should allow shoulders and leggings, because boys will be distracted, with or without a shoulder. Clothes are one of the many ways girls can express themselves," Lucy Hill (9) said.

The school handbook enforces what is called a dress code check, which entails the teacher to check each student for any infractions of the dress code.

"I think the dress code check is unfair because it embarrasses the class and the individuals that stand up in front of the class," Hill said.

The concerns with the rules don't stop at the dress code. Another topic discussed, and a rule often broken, is the cell phone policy.

"The phone rule, that when it gets taken away, your parents have to pick it up the next day, is annoying," Finnicum said. "Not everyone's parents can pick it up after school or the day after during school hours because most likely, the student's parents are at work and can't."

The phone rule specifies that if the phone is taken away on a Friday that the students will not be able to pick it up until Monday. Unfortunately, this rule also applies to Spring Break, Fall Break, Flex Days and all the other breaks- meaning if you lose your phone before a big break, you won't get it back until the first day after the break (or in the case of a Flex Day, you could just show up, unless school is completely canceled). Although the logic in the rule is acknowledged, it still does not sit well with the students.

This creates a bit of a dilemma between the two sides. There is a punishment for breaking the rules, and you should expect to be punished when breaking the rules, plain and simple. However, the part that creates the divide is how the punishment is carried out in certain situations.

"I get that the staff is trying to crack down on students using their phones in class, but is there really a purpose of keeping it until the end of the next school day? No, because it just causes problems for the parents and the student," Finnicum said.

Technically, the school has already stated they have gained the right to retain your phone because they're an institution providing you with education and food, so their roof, their rules. But students believe maybe it shouldn't be so extensive and could be changed to not stay over the weekends and over breaks. One day is understandable, but in certain cases, the way it has played out has not been anything close to favorable.

Some people believe the school handbook is pieced together by Homestead's staff and faculty alone, but that is not true.

"The handbook is evaluated and amended each year by the Admin team, with input from stakeholders, and then discussed by the Board of Education and approved or amended there" Park Ginder, principal, said.

Contrary to popular belief, students also have a say in the creation or amendation or a rule, albeit minor.

"I'll have students from time to time through sociology classes, that we have, will invite me into the class and they will go through and dissect the handbook." Jeff Kintz said. "I will have some parents email me about certain rules, on whether to explain them and/ or say they are too vague. I meet with the parent club every year and I allow them to go through it and ask questions about it and/or make suggestions for our handbook."

Some students think that this is not enough, that they need more of a say in the way things are made, or that their parents should be able to do something more than explain how a rule is too vague and hope it gets changed.

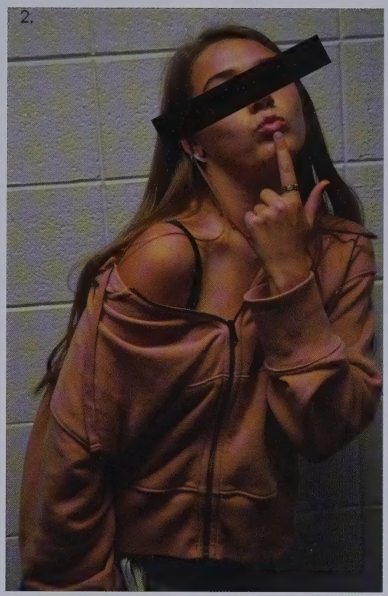
"I would appreciate if they incorporated the student body a bit more so we could completely understand some rules or changes," Brycton Vollmer (10) stated. "Some of the punishments can be inconvenient for both parties at times, like the school having to keep so many phones at a time. We need to establish a middle ground."

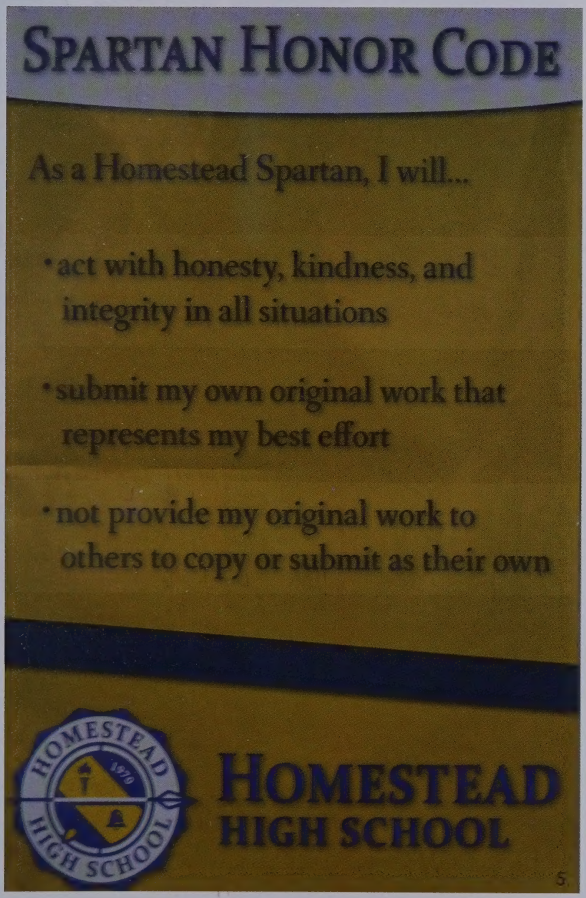
The ability to make rules would be nice, but the ability to amend a few arguably could be more important.

"I would appreciate the ability to change rules. If there was anything I personally would change, I would change the way tardies are enforced; sometimes those detentions can really come at bad times, I've had detentions intervene with important family matters before. They could probably do something like make you show up for a flex day, or have you choose what day you'll have detention on. There are a lot of rules that sometimes just don't work out in the students' favor." Vollmer added.

"I understand the faculty's intention is good, but sometimes some of these rules can be strict or inconvenient, not to add we're always being monitored."

spread design by Anna Topmiller




SPARTAN HONOR CODE
As a Homestead Spartan, I will...
• act with honesty, kindness, and integrity in all situations
• submit my own original work that represents my best effort
• not provide my original work to others to copy or submit as their own
HOMESTEAD HIGH SCHOOL
5.

1. Rule #4: Do not expose midriffs or have shorts or skirts that are not fingertip or mid-thigh length.
2. Rule #3: Be careful to not expose shoulders or back at any time.
3. Unlike Fresco Melt here, students are required to wear appropriate dress at all times.
4. This is the cell phone jail in the discipline office. Your cell phone cannot be out or on your person during school hours.
5. This is the code that all Homestead students should adhere to and live by.

Album Picks

Music suggestions from someone with ears.

JUNE HILL
Executive Editor

Each month, I (the one and only June) like to recommend some of my favorite things to all of you avid Spartana readers out there. I've done books, local restaurants, summer essentials and much more, but this month I am tentatively writing about my taste in music.

I was putting off making a music J List for two main reasons. #1: I honestly don't know a lot about music, but I really really like it. I know what I like and I know what I don't like and I sort of just go with it. Reason #2: A fear of being judged for my taste, I guess?

So, yep, music. In case anyone is looking for some hip new tunes, here are some of my favorite albums that I have been listening to recently. I think some of these albums are already pretty well known, but I am not one of those people who explicitly listens to unheard-of indie bands because I think it makes me look cool. At least I don't think I am one of those people...

I'm not going to go into what every single album is about; that would require research, and I am not up for that. I should also mention that some of these albums are new, and some have been around for a while, but I promise you, they are all vibrant, genuinely great albums that will make you want to dance in your car. Enjoy!

Lately by Still Woozy

I guess this is an EP album, but it's too good not to mention. *Lately* is made up of five, dreamy jams that instantly ease the mind. The songs are all sort of slow moving, and if I had to categorize *Lately*, I would call it fuzzy bedroom pop - you can decide what that means. Still, Woozy is just one guy, and he does this really interesting thing with his voice where he layers a bunch of breathy, falsetto vocals on top of each other. It comes off sounding sheerly smooth and relaxed. If you haven't already, please go listen to "Habit", it is sooo good and it's probably stuck in my head right now.

Close it Quietly by Frankie Cosmos

Greta Kline (Frankie Cosmos is a stage name) has the weirdest, most unique voice. This is her fourth album. It's brand new; she just released it on Sept. 6. I think Pitchfork (an online music review site) described *Close it Quietly* best. They say Kline's language has always been the "tightly coiled heart of her work, and here she offers a wealth of indelible imagery that smears together the winsome and the grotesque." Pitchfork is right - Kine has some pretty out-there lyrics. On the chorus to "Windows," she sings, "Spit out diamonds/Cough up rubies." Yeah, it's just fun and different in the best way.

Being so Normal by Peach Pit

Okay, I absolutely love Peach Pit, and not just because they are from Canada. *Being So Normal* is catchy and sympathetic without being depressing, and listening to it feels comfortable and nostalgic. Peach Pit is a unique, carefree brand of indie rock, and they describe themselves as "chewed bubblegum pop." It's a strange way to think of themselves, but after listening to the album, I'm sure you will agree.

The instrumentals work very well with the group's vocals, which are very laid back. Overall, it is a solid album; if you already knew about Mac DeMarco, you should definitely consider checking out Peach Pit.

Happy Camper by Summer Salt

I had to paint my bathroom the other weekend and this album made that experience much more enjoyable. Some friends of mine sang "Driving to Hawaii" (from a different album) all summer, so that's how I found out about Summer Salt. I would say they are an aptly named band - most of their music, especially on this album, is very lighthearted and summery. It is kind of the perfect soundtrack for hanging out by the pool. Yes, I realize it is September and pool days are long gone for most of us, but *Happy Camper* is still such a relaxing and happy sounding album that will bring you right back to summer. Listen to "Revvin' My CJ-7" if you just want to get a taste of Happy Camper. I think it's probably my favorite one on there.

spread design by June Hill

Nonagon Infinity by King Gizzard and The Lizard Wizard

This album is definitely a bit of an outlier here. I was friends with this guy last year who told me to listen to this band and I have to admit their band name alone threw me off. But I listened to *Nonagon Infinity* all the way through and loved it. They make crazy, loud, psychedelic music. One thing I really like about King Gizzard is that they drop new music all the time. Seriously, they have released 12 full albums (at least I think so - they were surprisingly hard to count) since 2010. Their music is definitely trippy, and I think *Nonagon Infinity* is probably a good entry level album to get familiar with their wacky style.

I Need to Start a Garden by Haley Hendrickx

In *I Need to Start a Garden,* Hendrickx vaguely questions ideas about God, which I think is interesting. You have to listen for it. She weaves this theme throughout her imaginative songs, the lyrics being satisfyingly weird at times. For example, in "The Bug Collector," she sings, "And there's a praying mantis/Prancing on your bathtub/And you swear it's a priest/From a past life out to getcha." Yes, strange, but in a way that makes you laugh. Her voice is stunning, melodic, honest and emotional. Top song: "Oom Sha La La".

Forever Turned Around by Whitney

As an avid fan of Whitney's first album, *Light Upon the Lake*, there was a lot of nervous anticipation surrounding the second album for me, yet Whitney did not disappoint. *Forever Turned Around* was just released in August. The album is a bit more welcoming, dialed back to a gentle lull in comparison to his previous album (also very good). Honestly, *Forever Turned Around* and *Light Upon the Lake* are similar, but in a way that is still pleasantly exciting. Whitney's music is brilliantly uniform without being boringly similar. I expect he will keep releasing more beaming, falsetto friendly, soft rock albums.

Salad Days by Mac DeMarco

Salad Days is from 2014, but it is by far my favorite Mac DeMarco album. Okay, maybe it's a tie between *Salad Days* and *This Old Dog* - they are both stellar. But I chose *Salad Days* and I'm sticking with it. Mac DeMarco is a very strange guy and by listening to this album, you get the feeling that he does not care what you think about his songs. You can hear how much he loves writing and performing by just listening to *Salad Days*. When listening to this album, you get a taste of his goofy and carefree personality, and it is a joy to listen to.

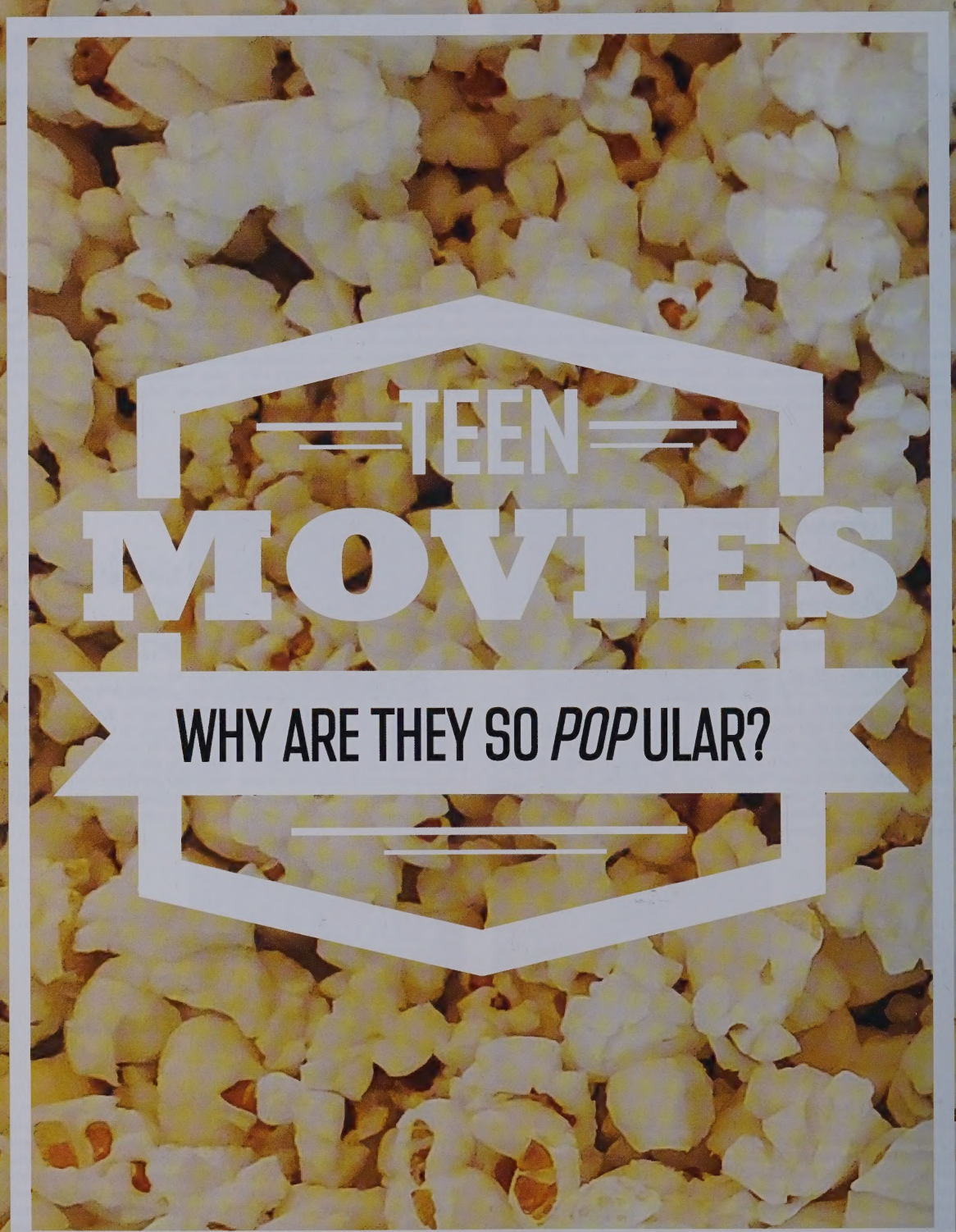
Renée Dominique

This woman doesn't even have an album but I had to include her. I found her on YouTube and have been in love with her covers ever since. She has a few original songs on Spotify which are beautiful, although some are a little too Disney for me. She has this gorgeous, soft and sweet voice, and most of the time she just sings with a ukulele, making the covers so simple, but so effective. Unfortunately her covers are not on Spotify, but like I mentioned before, her YouTube channel is packed full of music. My favorite songs she covers are "Close to You" by the Carpenters and "Can't Take My Eyes Off of You".

Scan Me!

Find September Picks on Spotify!

Just for fun, I put together a Spotify playlist of all my favorite songs from each of these albums, plus some of my other favorites from other artists. Every song is actually from a different album. I might start making a Spotify playlist every month, depending on how well this goes over. We will see. Go ahead and scan the QR code to pull up the playlist of my September Picks. It is meant to be shuffled. Sorry if you don't have Spotify, you can still go check out these albums. I promise they are great and I hope you enjoyed this month's J list!



spread design by Emmalyn Meyer

EMMALYN MEYER
Executive Editor

THAT DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT

Movies and TV shows that typically attract teenagers are those that feature them and their lifestyles. At least, at surface level, that is what they seem to include. However, if you look more deeply at the media's portrayal of teens, you might find that the girls and guys you see do not look anything like that of a regular high school. Well, maybe there are exceptions to that statement - some high schoolers do look much older than their age might suggest. For the most part, though, the teenagers of film look much more mature and glamorous than normal teenagers do. Why?

To put it simply, they look older because they are. The majority of TV and film teenagers are actually portrayed by adults ranging from 20 to 30 years old. There are simple reasons for this, as well as some that are complicated and possibly unethical.

The main reason that actors much older than 18 years old play characters that are 18 years and younger is due to child labor laws in the United States. While several states do not enforce child labor laws in entertainment, many states have a maximum number of hours per week that children under 16 years old can work in entertainment. To avoid lawsuits entirely, film studios avoid hiring actors at which the laws are directed.

This does not solve the case, however. While I can understand why studios might shy away from legal trouble and hire older actors, I cannot understand why they would hire 20- and 30-year-olds instead of just sticking to a closer age range.

This can be an especially large problem for TV shows with multiple seasons that are filmed over a number of years but only canonically span a year or two. Even if the first season was filmed when the cast was 18 to 20 years old, the same cast will continue to mature over a few seasons when their characters do not. When Riverdale began filming in 2016, Camila Mendes was 22 and playing 16-year-old Veronica Lodge, but as the cast is working on their fourth season, Mendes' character is nearly the same age, but Mendes is 25 years old.

One of the biggest problems I have with a 25-year-old playing a teenager is the erasure of normal teenage development. Teen flicks show teenage girls and boys with perfect skin and developed bodies, but in reality, normal people are not at that stage when they enter high school. They might not be at that stage by the time they leave high school. However, these problematic media changes teenagers' standards of their own bodies - they wonder why they are not as perfect as those they see in movies. This has led many people to the conclusion that studios will not hire teenagers because they show signs of development - acne, weight fluctuation, slow growth in certain areas - that are not considered attractive by inflated standards set by the media.

When teenagers see themselves represented on TV by actors much older than them, their self-confidence wanes dramatically, causing a higher standard for what is considered attractive, the tabooness of pimples and changing bodies, and the idolization of beauty that is basically unattainable for them.

Besides this, most shows and movies are not great representations of the average teenage lifestyle. Someone going into high school whose only opinions on it stem from films' representations of that age group might assume that they need to follow the set expectations of falling into one of two groups: people who party every weekend and people who do not.

Movies and TV also create stereotypes of people and the way they live. For example, one might assume that "jocks" and "popular people" must spend all of their free time having fun with friends cannot earn good grades, but "nerds" never do anything fun and earn perfect grades. On that note, it is possible to be successful in nearly any field, no matter the classes one takes while in high school. Stress and mental health issues are not a sign of the great payoff a person will have in the end - they are not necessary for achieving high goals.

On a completely unrelated note, I am not certain that I have seen a high school drama that actually follows normal school rules. I will not dig into the Homestead dress code, but assuming that it is typical of most schools in the United States, the movies portray school life incorrectly. Similarly, the amount of time that I see students in class at school is very short. This makes it seem as though following school rules is unnecessary and possibly even taboo.

Also, the amount of money that a given teenager in a movie has is incredibly unrealistic. Stereotypically rich characters with giant walk-in closets and an unlimited credit card that they can use at the mall each weekend can cause real people who cannot compare to them to feel ashamed of their financial status. Have you wondered why one particular character dresses their best every day and never repeats an outfit ever? That is because they are in a movie and are wearing costumes that they did not have to buy. Of course, I am not saying that movies should stop using costumes, because that is unrealistic and also not how movies work. I simply want to clear the air on a topic that frustrates me.

All in all, many teenage-centered films and shows can be enjoyable to watch. They inform audiences of the continual strife of teenage life and show how to make the most of the bitter five years one spends as a teenager. However, it is important not to take these portrayals as an absolute truth, because many of them attempt to seduce their viewers into believing all teen lives are one and the same. Next time you grab some popcorn, sit on the couch and turn on Mean Girls, think about what the movie is trying to make you think about your own life. And most importantly, never feel obligated to dress and act like the teens on screen. Everyone has a right to individualism.

Here are a few movies and TV shows - past and present - that you may or may not have noticed feature mature themes and/or actors.

The classic teen flick, *Mean Girls* (2004), featured several actors portraying 11th graders who were more than 20 years old themselves. In fact, Rachel McAdams (Regina George) was 25 while Amy Poehler (Mrs. George) was only seven years older.

The cast of the popular teen drama, *Riverdale* (2017-present), continues to age into adulthood as each new season begins, yet their characters are still in their junior year. The show also depicts the teenagers doing activities that are atypical of their age group.

13 Reasons Why (2017-present), based on the novel of the same name, depicts especially mature themes in the most recent seasons, making the content only vaguely appropriate for the intended audience. Also, the cast of teens range in age from 21 years to 32 years old.

Though an older example of misleading film studios, *Dawson's Creek* (1998-2003) still has an impact on today's viewers. At the beginning of the first season, almost all of the cast was 20 years or older, despite their characters entering their first year of high school.

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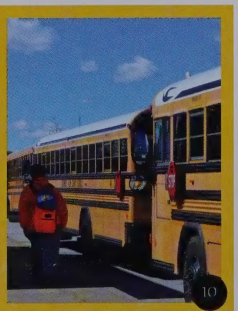
The members of the Spartana staff met up to carve pumpkins to introduce themselves to the school (page 4), and to celebrate the spooky season.
Photo by Mikayla Havison
Cover Design by Mikayla Havison



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by June Hill
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spread design by Emmalyn Meyer

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Reader,

This Halloween we hope you take the opportunity to have fun with friends and family, as well as take a look at this month's Spartana. In this spooky issue, we have stories about Fort Wayne frights, as well as the usual information about what students and staff are up to.

From helpful tips in the J-List to talk in the toilets, we hope this issue satisfies your thirst for information about the school. Wondering why the school is so gosh darn cold? We have that answer for you as well. Want to know who at Homestead is a TikTok star? We have the scoop. Want to learn more about the drivers who sacrifice their time to take you to school? We have the information.

One story we are looking forward to sharing is an insight into juuling, featuring an exclusive interview with an anonymous student who partakes in the potentially lethal activity.

As you read the Spartana, we hope you consider what questions you still have and what you would like to see next issue. Email us anytime at thespartana@gmail.com. We also have a website, hhsspartana.com, where we post more stories and content from former issues.

Additionally, our Twitter and Instagram are up and running and we would love for you to give us a follow @TheSpartana (Twitter) and @hhs_Spartana (Instagram). Happy reading and happy Halloween!

Sincerely,

Mikayla Havison

Meet the Staff

HAFSA IBRAHIM
Writer

For this October issue, we thought it would be fun to introduce our writers and designers through an interactive and seasonally appropriate fall activity. Get to know the Spartana staff, as we carve pumpkins and talk about our deepest, darkest feelings during this spooky season of Halloween.

Claire Elliott

Writer

I carved Kermit the frog in flames. Kermit has a very chaotic and aggravated look on his face. I think Kermit's anger is in all of us. As a nation, we need to understand our anger problems. Let's start a revolution.

- Likes to art or whatever
- Wants to start a revolution

Hafsa Ibrahim

Writer

I'm a Harry Potter junkie. I watch the movies every weekend. It's kind of a problem. Funny story, I haven't read the books. My English teachers are going to hate me, but I don't usually like to read. I'd rather be taking a nap.

- Bags under eyes are designer
- Back pains at sixteen

Mikayla Havison

Editor-in-Chief

I chose to design my pumpkin in the form of a cat because I really feel as though cats are my spirit animal. My neighbor has a cat named Maui, and he's like a son to me. I aspire to have my own cat one day, however, I am allergic.

- Pumpkin symbolizes her spiritual connection with cats
- Is ironically allergic to cats
- Possesses strong convictions

Keely Groholski

Writer

I created a tiny dragon inside a bigger dragon. Originally it was supposed to be two dragons surrounding a moon, but I kind of messed up. So, I improvised. I wanted to express my artistic abilities through this pumpkin and go against the norm. Other than pumpkin cutting, I like to spray paint and sketch.

- Sweet lil bean
- Thoughtful
- Artistic and defies the norm

Jacob Houser

Writer

My pumpkin's name is Jake because it's my face on a pumpkin. I couldn't come up with anything else. I care for him very much, and he is a valued member of my family.

- The pumpkin has glasses because Jake has glasses
- Insightfully simple

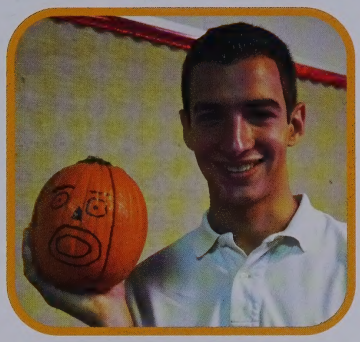
spread design by June Hill

Julia Epling

Writer

I didn't really know how to convey my personality through a pumpkin, so I just looked on Pinterest and thought the design was cute. I stay up late, so I guess that's why there's a star as one of the eyes. It's kind of messy and done on a whim, but it's fine.

- Always slaying
- Outfits on point
- Comes alive in the night



Matthew Quintos

Online Editor

My pumpkin reflects the anxiety and stress that people undergo as high school students. His name is Jeff. He's very different. Pumpkins are really just the essence of the soul.

- Is probably affiliated with the government, no one really knows
- A man with a plan
- A "Pun-King"!

Elyssa Huff

Writer

I chose this design from "the Google" because I thought it was achievable but still interesting. I was drawn to its size; I think we tend to forget about the small and insignificant things in life. We share the same look of existential despair. May her fire never burn out.

- Literally over analyzes everything
- "Let's reevaluate"
- Will perish without food

Anna Topmiller

Writer

I wanted to carve a classic halloween pumpkin. The eyelashes didn't work out too well. He has only one ear because I thought that people would already be uncomfortable enough looking at him, so I made him even worse. My pumpkin represents the extent of my artistic abilities. His name is Chadwick.

- Petite pumpkin has only one ear because why not
- Classic and chic
- Always sweet

Emmalyn Meyer

Executive Editor

My pumpkin is the embodiment of the sleeping emoji. I am perpetually tired and sleep-deprived. The difference between the two of us is that my pumpkin is allowed to sleep, but I'm not. He prefers to remain Anonymous.

- Volleyball master
- One funny gal
- Moldy coffee

June Hill

Executive Editor

I was a little confused on how to design my pumpkin, so I went to Pinterest and found the perfect pumpkin for me. I named him June 2.0. He's kind of nervous and afraid, and like me he's also introverted. I think we can relate to each other in that way.

- Introverted just like her pumpkin
- Can design a spread in her sleep
- Literal ray of sunshine

Playing THE Part

ELYSSA HUFF
Writer

The spotlight shines as the performers take the stage. Weeks of preparation have come to this moment, and it is no wonder that the result is dually well-produced and sleek.

This year, Homestead has two plays in its fall season, both of which are drastically different from one another.

"Waiting for Godot is essentially two people waiting for another man during the play. It's about humanity and what we actually do," Parker Bowman (10), an actor in both plays, said. "Clue is based off of the original board game where people are in a house, and a murder happens and shenanigans ensue."

Waiting for Godot, in particular, was a spectacular play to pull off. The play was entirely student-produced, and all of its profits went toward Fort Wayne's Center for Nonviolence.

"I'd say the biggest difference between my experience on the two plays was the supervision. With Clue, we have a set practice schedule and (Mr.) Shaw helps with the direction, while Waiting for Godot we had to work on as it went, and (Daniel Bean and I) had to both direct and produce it," Bethany Villaruz (12) said.

The Theater Department is very proud of its work, and its members love being so heavily involved in its productions this fall.

"It's an amazing experience, and working with such talented actors makes it all worth it," Daniel Bean (12) said. "The ability to go on stage and lose myself by playing a character and getting away from every day's stresses is an incredibly experience."

The Theater Department is especially notable for being a mostly independent organization.

"We're pretty self funded," Villaruz said. "The students have to pay a pretty hefty fee ($1500) to be in show choir and the other performing arts, so to have us supported for the time, effort and money we put into things would be incredible."

With Waiting for Godot already done and performed, the next chance to get involved in, and help support the Theater Department rests in the fall play, Clue.

The upcoming fall play, Clue, is a unique play, and the amount of production that goes into it is reflective of the entire efforts of the Theater Department.

"It's an ensemble cast of 10 people, which is pretty small for a play. It's a great cast, and it's going to be a really funny play," Villaruz said.

With the amount of effort put into the plays, pressure inevitably takes a huge role in the process of actually practicing and performing them.

"People expect you to perform well," Bowman said. "Especially in a play like Clue, where a lot of people tried out but only 10 are actually in the cast, there's a lot more pressure to do well."

Even though a lot of effort goes into the plays and their production, the cast stresses the importance of going out to see them and supporting the theater department.

"I think the performing arts, in general, are underrated in our society," Bean said. "There's a lot of stigma surrounding 'theater geeks,' but in reality it's a way to express yourself and challenge yourself in ways you haven't before. Sports can be used to release aggression, while theater helps to release other emotions."

The entire crew is very excited to perform, as they have been working hard for weeks to get everything prepared and achieve a level of performance that they are satisfied with.

"I'm super excited. I think Clue is going to be super funny. The set design looks super cool, the cast is incredible, and I think people will really enjoy it," Villaruz said.

With Waiting for Godot under wraps, Clue is the next great play production at Homestead. The cast, crew, and everyone involved in the play hopes to see you there.

spread design by Mikayla Havison

Above: The cast of Clue practices in front of Curtis Shaw, the director, who gives them stage directions and suggestions for delivering lines.
Far Left: In preparation for the play, the cast of Clue gets to know their parts. Pictured (from left to right) are: Joshua Bennett (10), Parker Bowman (10), Emma Bennett(12), Skyler Neuhause (11), Bethany Villaruz (12), Autumn Harlan (11) and Danny Bean (12).
Center Left: The cast of Waiting for Godot gives their first performance.
Left: Danny Bean (12) and Bethany Villaruz (12) play the parts of Vladimir and Estragon in Waiting for Godot.

Photo Credits: Mikayla Havison and Grace Bultemeyer

This year you may have noticed there is only one art club, where last year there were many; photography, painting, film and design to name a few. Art Lab has arisen, sparking young artists' interests in new types of media, and bringing in professional artists to share their passion for art. This new club helps make the world a little brighter and more creative.

KEELY GROHOLSKI
Writer

Imagine the smell of paint, the sound of pencils flying across sketch paper, the warm sensation of a growing community of artists. This feeling can be experienced in the newly formed Art Lab.

This club is known for pushing boundaries in art, through spray painting, water slide decals, and even more.

The club was envisioned last year when the painting, photography and other art-related clubs were lacking members.

"Students are so busy, they are so active in so many different clubs, activities, and seasonal sports. Attendance was very sporadic and people would start a project and not be able to finish it because they would come one time and then miss the next, and then the next and so on. Then we were done with the project and we ended up with all these half-done projects and the kids were frustrated," Sarah Shatto-Jones, art teacher, said.

The teachers were confused about what to do, so they decided to create Art Lab.

"We proposed the idea last year, with the event featuring all four teachers showing off fiber arts, film, photography, drawing, ceramics, all of those different things were represented," Jones said.

Art Lab seemed to have gotten a lot of attention at the event, and the teachers proposed the idea to a couple of students, suggesting monthly, after school activities that the students could participate in, and they loved it.

The members have expressed that the positive atmosphere is what draws them to Art Lab. Some even say that people are the most important part of the club.

"We all bond over the art we make and people like to give each other tips. When we were spray painting with stencils with Jarrod Tobias, many people were walking around and giving others tips on making interesting effects with the spray paint," Sophia Hartley (10) said.

A lot of students felt stuck, only drawing with a pencil and paper. After joining Art Lab, they can experience new ways to express themselves through their passion for art.

"Art Lab brings in artists that are willing to show young students what they do and how they can do it too. I've been doing art for a long time, but Art lab is teaching me different art techniques and styles," Lauren Bower (9) said.

Inside Art Lab, professional artists show kids that it is possible to live out their dream working as an artist, and showing them that there is more to art than just sitting down with a couple of paints. Jones explains how they choose what local artists to bring in.

"We think of what activities we are going to do, and think of who is an expert in that area. And so with Jarred Tobias who was a speaker for us last year at Art Lab and the students who came to Art Lab loved it. The concept of street art, contemporary art, and public art is really prevalent right now in our own city with

spread design by June Hill

all of the murals," Jones said.

Jarod Tobias is a well-known street artist, he has painted many murals in downtown Fort Wayne. He and his wife Kara finished a mural down by Firefly Coffee House. He says that with their art they can change the world.

In Art Lab, students can finally find a way to express themselves through different mediums and to enjoy art instead of just having a grade stamped onto it.

"Though I already had a passion for art, It helped me to discover that I enjoy making art with other mediums and materials than I would normally. I find it enjoyable that I am learning new styles and branching outside of my comfort zone," Anastasia Ladig (10) said.

In Art Lab, students get to work in many different mediums, the most recent being Waterslide Decals.

"Waterslide Decals are when the students are using found objects to do waterslide decal transfers which are essentially temporary tattoos for ceramics," Jones said.

The "temporary tattoo" style presents members with many ideas on what to put on their found items.

"I was gonna put a moth on my plate because they look cute and are kinda underrated," Deann Top (11) said.

Some students who were in art clubs last year were disappointed when they disbanded. They were searching for an outlet that could fill the desire to create something that they are proud of when during the announcements, the mention of an Art Lab seemed to pique their interest.

"I did Art Club last year so I was looking for something," Top said.

And Art Lab does not just help for creating art to take home, but it also provides experience for future jobs.

"I want to be a video game designer, so I have to do 3-D modeling. We learned art composition, which also helps things look more appealing," Top said.

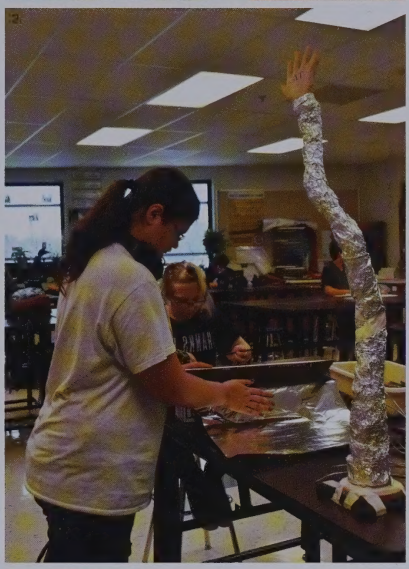
Some students join because they want to have some entertainment, and relax after school. As not every member has to be passionate about art, but everyone is welcome.

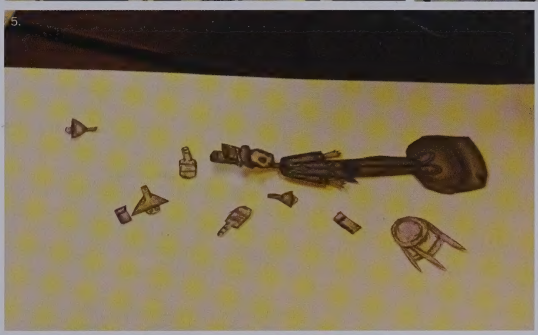
"I just want to do this for fun, as I am not serious about Art," Sarah Top (9) said.

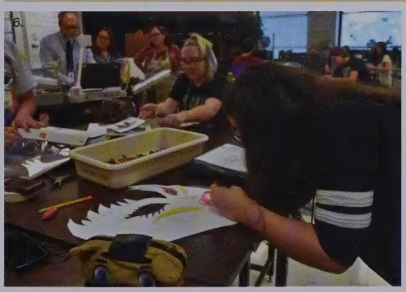
The Art Lab is built on a very unique base as not every student has a commitment. As a member can just attend one class and only have to pay 4 dollars for that one activity or 10 dollars for the entire semester.

"You don't have to be an active member. I am missing a lot of students due to band right now, and in the spring I will probably lose a lot of students to show choir, but Art Lab is nice because you can just attend specific topics that they are interested in learning more about, rather than be apart of a club in an area that is not of interest," Jones said.

Art Lab may be new, but it is just as interesting and creative for students who are passionate and want to create something that they are proud of, or for students who need to relax and want something creative to do after a long day of school.







1. Sophia Hartley (10) looking at photos for a personal project.
2. Lauren Bower (9) working on a project for her class.
3. Different photos hung up in the photography room as examples for young students.
4.Display that helps students enhance their photography skills.
5. A personal project in the works.
6. Member of Art Lab working on a personal project.

Mr. Mike, a SACS bus driver for seven years, is always a smiling face when his students enter bus 10.

"Just show respect to me and others, and we'll get along fine"

-Bus driver Mike Bollinger

ANNA TOPMILLER
Writer

Everyday when you walk up those stairs, a familiar smiling face greets you. Do you smile back or just keep walking?

Homestead's bus drivers are integral to the school day. Many students would not be able to get to school or back home without their help; however, they are often not given enough recognition.

"The bus is an easy and convenient way to get home from school," Grace Steffan (10) said. "I get home sooner that I would if I was picked up after getting my siblings from St. Elizabeth."

With about 70 employees of the transportation department, it is a huge undertaking to keep the buses running smoothly. The bus drivers are obviously an integral part of this process.

However, SACS is facing a bus driver shortage. There are some buses that feel more cramped than some students would like. "Especially towards the end of the year, the buses can feel a little crowded," says Steffan.

"The bus driver shortage is national," says Steve Lake, director of transportation. This shortage is due to the drastic increase in online shopping has increased the need for UPS and FedEx drivers, which have the same licenses as school bus drivers.

"(SACS) is competing against all those different drivers," Lake says. He would encourage people to apply. "The bus drivers have great benefits and you're on the same schedule as your kids are, so if you're a mom, or stay-at-home mom or dad, this is a flexible job."

Everyone in the transportation department is essential to keeping the bus system running smoothly.

All of the SACS drivers are required to have an attitude that is compatible with students. According to Lake, "(only a) rare set of personality (traits) can work with both ends of the age spectrum."

Every one of them must have these essential traits, such as patience, leadership, and dedication in order to be a successful bus driver. These drivers are devoted and dedicated to their kids and their safety.

"(My bus driver) feels more like a friend than just a bus driver," Destiny Ellington (10) said as she describes her bus driver. "He seems to genuinely care for the students on the bus and he puts up with a lot. If you ever get a chance to talk to him, he seems like a really cool person."

Drivers are responsible for the safety of their students. For this reason, all drivers must obtain a commercial driver's license as well as pass a physical every year.

While students may not like the addition of seat belts to their buses, they are proven to help preserve life and improve student safety. Lake realizes that students are not the biggest supporters of the seatbelts; however, he would like students to know that it is really "all about safety."

Lake is a firm believer in safety first. "(The) bus is just a way to get from point A to point B. The rules of the bus are there to ensure that this happens via the safest means possible."

Bus driver Mike Bollinger, known to his students as Mr. Mike, is an example of these traits. He "likes kids (and just) wants (their) respect."

Keeping these simple requests in mind can make the bus a safe space for everyone. It is a very necessary tool for many students during the school week. Without it, some students would have no other way to get to school, thus making traditional public school impossible for them to attend.

The ~~Wheels~~ Driver
On
The
Bus
The People Who Get You Home Safe and Sound

If You've Got It, HAUNT IT

As Halloween nears, the spirits began to awaken. Hear students' chilling stories about the paranormal activity occurring in their homes.

Claire Elliott
Writer and Designer

"We bought it on Halloween and there were spooky handprints on the gadoors a couple weeks after we bought it, which was around the time of our neighbor's arson," Amelia Elliott (10) said.

Elliott's house was built in the 70's and seems to contain more than a few secrets. Elliott confirmed that the arsonist was never caught, even with a sizable bounty.

"There's a hallway in the middle of the house, upstairs, that looks just like The Shining. There's one door that's 6 feet tall and then one door that's 3 feet tall," Elliott said.

Behind the doors is attic space, plumbing, and an ancient safe.The safe is coated with layers of dust, and its only remaining inhabitant is a single Rumi-Sorb to keep the moisture levels in check. Adding to its creepy character, the hallway is a sickly yellow color, containing linoleum floors.

"Also, before we bought the house, the lady was selling all of her stuff, which includes piles of surgical tools and at least five hundred porcelain dolls," Elliott said.

On Halloween, when the house was officially bought, the previous owner left the Elliott's a note.

The note included, "There is a spirit to the property. Honor it." Other things mentioned were the house's numerous flora and fauna. Along with the note was an old bottle of lavender perfume.

Elliott recalls seeing many large hairy spiders, which are believed to be wolf spiders. Whether the spiders are just a coincidence, or a witch's familiar is the question.

"The basement is really dusty and small, but then there's a huge separate room that you can only see through this giant hole in the wall, filled with all the junk and left over plywood. It's like a giant crawlspace," Elliott said.

The hidden room extends at least twenty feet, but due to the lack of lights, there is no way to describe what is back there.

Creepy basements and nervous pets are historic motifs in haunted houses. Elliott's house is no exception.

"One time my cat walked into the basement and started going crazy. He wouldn't stop meowing and it sounded like he was being murdered by a coyote," Elliott said.

Elliott's house may seem like a scene straight out of The Amityville Horror, but it is in fact in Homestead's district.

Although no supernatural activity has been detected, the 'coincidences' are piling up. Elliott reported that she has not used an Ouiji board, but she wants to. Her siblings are absolutely against the idea. Even still, the house's macabre environment is more than suspicious.

"I've been living with the paranormal basically my whole life," Philip Wardolf (11) said.

According to the Washington Post, just 18% of American adults believe that they were in the presence of ghosts. However, 45% of Americans think that they exist. Wardolf is one of them.

Wardolf's house was built relatively recently, in the 1980s. Wardolf has not experienced any strange occurrences in his neighborhood and cannot think of any 'mysterious' objects that would attract any paranormal activity. Instead, Wardolf's experience with ghosts and spirits arises from his family. Everyone in the Wardolf family has encountered some sort of spirit, or other supernatural being.

Wardolf describes the spirits as misplaced "shadows," although sometimes the spirits will show themselves to Wardolf in his mind.

"One of the most common types of spirits I found was one that mimics our family," said Wardolf.

The ghosts will pretend to be a family member and call another to a certain space. The ghosts also manifest as different family members walking in places where the 'real' family member is nowhere to be found.

According to The Paranormal Guide, this may be an instance of a doppelganger spirit, which is often a bad omen, signifying illness, death, and tragedy. The doppelganger could also be a mischievous spirit, playing games with living people. But, neither of these instances are always the case.

Another possible explanation is bilocation, where an individual is seen in two different locations at the same time. Or, the false callings could be from a bored, playful ghost.

The last example seems to be the answer to Wardolf's experience with paranormal activity, as the spirits seem to be harmless and friendly. "We welcome the spirits in, unless they are filled with negative energy. In these cases, we tell them they are no longer welcome. So far they have left and haven't returned," Wardolf said.

Even still, the paranormal activity in Wardolf's home is creepy enough for most. In the movie Ouiji: Origin of Evil, the spirit also began friendly, but the situation quickly turned sinister.

However, Wardolf is confident in his safety, and states his family is more curious than scared of the spirits. His situation is interesting, and sparks many questions about Fort Wayne's spooky historical background.

Mr. Manco, a photographer teacher at Homestead, also has some noteworthy adventures regarding ghosts, although Manco himself is still skeptical.

"My friends and I spent the night at a place called Whispers Estate in Mitchell, Indiana," Manco said.

The house is known for being haunted, and can be rented out like a hotel for those who want a scare. Manco and his friends spent the night for a fun experience.

"The original owners were a doctor and his family. His daughter who lived there ended up catching her nightgown on fire, having some severe burns, and eventually dying," Manco said.

In the parlour room, where the girl had caught on fire, one of Manco's friends got a charred mark on his face. But this is not the only unexplained event that occurred that night.

"Some cousins lived in the house and one of them hit the other with an axe," Manco said.

Later residents also included a little boy, who is rumored to play with toys in his room. A red ball was also seen in different locations around the room when no one had moved it.

"The skeptic in me would say maybe the floor is just uneven," Manco said.

Sitting in a room next to the doctor's office, one of Manco's friends heard a malicious growl. Coincidently, Manco was able to get a picture right when the growl was heard.

"It's dark," Manco said regarding the picture.

"Out of the six of us that were there, only three of us actually made it through the whole night," Manco said.

The other three group members slept on the porch after hearing three knocks at three in the morning, which parallels a scene in The Conjuring. Three knocks at three are said to be mocking the holy trinity, and are from an evil source.

Not only does Fort Wayne have mysterious aspects, but the whole of Indiana is spookier than most may think. In fact, instead of just going to corn mazes, as corn is Indiana's undesignated emblem, there are many haunted houses one can go to.

4. Creepy door in Elliott's home

2. Crawlspace in Elliott's home

3. Manco's friend hearing a growl

1. Elliott's creepy hallway

RICK

AMORTIS
R.I.P.

ONE HIT WONDER

JULIA EPLING
Writer and Designer

Vaping and Juuling among teenagers has increased exponentially in the past five years. See how it's affecting students nationwide and at Homestead.

spread design by Julia Epling

According to Truth Intuitive, the rate of youths smoking cigarettes has dropped to historic lows, and is now at 5.4 percent.

Despite this, however, the number of teens vaping has grown exponentially in the past decade due to companies such as Juul appealing to teenagers.

"I started juuling freshman year...I remember everyone was doing it, so I got [a juul]," anonymous junior, said.

Soon after their first hit, an addiction began that, over the next two years, would hurt their bank account and health.

This junior, however, is not alone. According to the 2018 National Youth Tobacco Survey, the number of high school students who use e-cigarettes has increased from 1.5 percent, or 220,000 students, to 20.8 percent, or 3.05 million students, between 2011 and 2018.

Although Juul has only been available since 2015, it is responsible for about 75 percent of all e-cigarette sales as of October 2018. A Juul heats up a cartridge, or pod, that contains oils to create vapor that is inhaled and then exhaled to create vapor.

The F.D.A. referred to Juul an "epidemic of youth e-cigarette use." While adult smokers praise the device as the aid that helped them stop smoking, teenagers who have never smoked a cigarette have become addicted to Juul's intense nicotine hit, or "buzz."

"...I do consider myself addicted...it's not healthy at all. I wasn't even getting buzzed anymore, I just did it to do it," anonymous junior, said.

A Juul can be easily hidden and discreetly used; it's sleek design can be mistaken for a flash drive. According to a Truth Intuitive survey, nearly one in five students have seen a Juul used in school.

The F.D.A. is investigating whether Juul Labs intentionally markets its devices to teenagers.

In 2018, Juul announced it would stop store sales of all flavors except tobacco, menthol and mint. They also suspended social media promotions.

"WE DO NOT WANT KIDS USING OUR PRODUCTS...OUR PRODUCT IS NOT ONLY NOT FOR KIDS, IT'S NOT FOR NON-NICOTINE USERS."

-ASHLEY GOULD, THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF JUUL.

According to the Juul website, one standard Juul cartridge has about the same amount of nicotine in a pack of cigarettes, or about 200 puffs. If a teen smokes one pod a week, in about five weeks, that's about 100 cigarettes.

While research is still being conducted on the effects of vaping, nicotine use can harm brain development and alter nerve cell functioning.

Teenagers who use e-cigarettes are four times more likely to go on to smoke cigarettes than their those who do not vape, according to Truth Intuitive.

Despite the rise in vaping, there are companies intent on stopping this nationwide epidemic. For example, Truth Intuitive has helped bring down teen cigarette use from 23% in 2000 to less than 5% in 2019.

"This may be hypocritical, but I'd tell people to not juul. It may seem popular and like a cool thing to do, but it's expensive and unhealthy. Research is just starting to come out about the effects of juuling on teenagers, and it's really scary to see," anonymous junior, said.

At Homestead, tobacco and vaping is prohibited in all school facilities, in school owned vehicles, and on all school property.

Any student found with a vape will receive two days OSS and submit a urine sample for testing for suspicion of being under the influence of drugs.

What's your flavor?

One of the contributing factors to Juul's success among teenagers was the variety of flavors they offer.

Humans of Homestead

MIKAYLA HAVISON
Editor-In-Chief

Each year, Americans spend more than $9 billion on Halloween. With the creative costumes, spooky decor and delicious candy, Halloween is a holiday beloved by many. Although very few actually celebrate the religious aspects of the day, many still participate in dressing up and more modern traditions. AHomestead, there are many students who have taken advantage or continue to take advantage of free candy and fun time with friends and family. In this Humans of Homestead, the Spartana takes a closer look at some students who truly embrace the spirit of Halloween.

Hudson Custer '21

Hudson Custer (11) has some of the most unique and innovative costumes. From a crazy cat lady to Darla from Finding Nemo, Custer has worn a broad range of costumes.

"When I was in fifth grade, I dressed up as Flo from Progressive and got a lot of extra candy that year because everybody liked my costumes so much," Custer said.

Year after year, Custer has enjoyed the spooky day, always coming up with unique ideas; however, some of her costumes have been larger successes than others.

"I remember I was dressed up like Darla (from Finding Nemo) and someone asked me if I broke my jaw," Custer said. "I decided it was time to go home."

Apart from dressing up, there are other factors that have influenced Custer's appreciation of Halloween.

"I would consider myself a fan of Halloween just because it gives me a chance for all my friends to get together and have a really fun time and dress up in costumes," Custer said. "I think I appreciated Halloween when I was younger because there is free candy and a fun time to celebrate with family and friends."

One of the largest influencers of Custer's appreciation for Halloween is her family.

"My family is very into Halloween," Custer said. "My dad loves decorating the house and putting out fog machines and cobwebs. He loves scaring people."

Of course, Halloween would not be complete without the candy, and even though Hudson has stopped trick-or-treating, she is continuing to encourage the tradition.

"I'll probably pass out candy this year because I like to see all the little kids when they get the candy that they like" Custer said.

Dylan Kuperus and E.J Cucinelli

One of the iconic, Halloween duos at Homestead consists of Dylan Kuperus (12) and E.J Cucinelli (12). Many students and staff may know the pair for their Spiderman costumes, which they have worn to school in years prior and even during homecoming this year.

"With great power comes great responsibility," Kuperus said. "That is why (we dress like Spiderman)."

The two got their spidermen start last year, when Kuperus suggested the idea to Cucinelli.

"Last year in study hall, Dylan said, 'Do you want to be Spiderman for Halloween?'... and that's kind of what started it" Cucinelli said.

Although their costumes have been admired by many at the school, they have been met by some disapproval.

"On the first day of finals, first semester, we both got dress-coded," Cucinelli said.

As a result of the dress code, the two have had to make some changes to their costumes.

"I had to buy spiderman shoes," Kuperus said.

Outside of school, Kuperus and Cucinelli have worn their costumes for trick-or treating, as well as at other locations, outside the typical neighborhood.

"We take pictures with kids and for kids, and it's always fun," Kuperus said. "I've held a baby as spiderman, while wearing the costume in Barnes and Noble."

Although some of the highlights of their time as spidermen has taken place outside of trick-or-treating, they still have great memories associated with Halloween.

"With our webs, we get pretty far (trick-or-treating)," Kuperus said.

Even prior to meeting one another, Kuperus and Cucinelli have both had an appreciation for spiderman.

"I have a few years that I was definitely spiderman as a kid," Kuperus said.

This year, the dynamic pair are hoping to continue the tradition of wearing their costumes together.

"Spiderman is pretty cool," Cucinelli said.

"We've grown attached to spiderman," Kuperus said.

spread design by Mikayla Havison

HALLOWEEN EDITION

John Dely '23

John Dely (9) is a freshman who enjoys Halloween. From a young age, Dely has taken advantage of the holiday, using it to spend time with friends and try out various costumes.

"I would consider myself a very big fan," Dely said. "I really started appreciating it when I was five or six and I would dress up."

Although Dely has worn many costumes over the years, some have stuck out to him more than others, as he has enjoyable memories attached to them.

"My dinosaur costume (is my favorite costume) because I remember going to a cello lesson on Halloween and I wore that costume," Dely said. "I thought it was fun."

Dely also tries to keep his costumes new and exciting every year. Dely puts a lot of thought into his costumes, trying not to repeat costumes.

"Last year I saw an inflatable dinosaur and I wanted to be an inflatable, but I didn't want to be a dinosaur, so I decided to be a gorilla," Dely said. "It's taking one idea and taking it to a different degree."

Like how some costumes are better than others, Dely has found that some Halloweens are also better than others. This is especially the case when the evening of fun cannot be taken full advantage of.

"I haven't had many bad experiences," Dely said, "but I remember one year when I was around eight... and I only got to go for half an hour because my mom and dad wanted to go home."

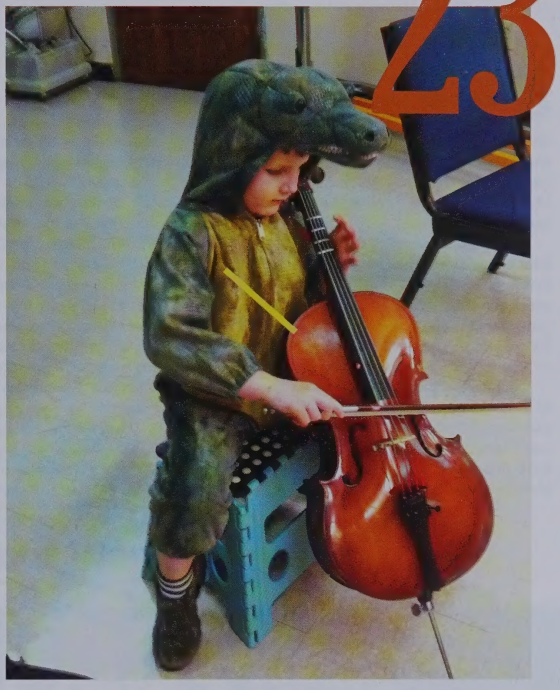
For Dely, candy is an enjoyable part of Halloween; however, spending time with family friends makes the holiday truly special for him.

"I think my favorite Halloween memory is going trick or treating and then coming home and sitting in the basement and trading candy with all my friends" Dely said.

Over the years, John is not the only Dely who has taken part in the Halloween fun. Dely also enjoys putting his dog, Henry, in costumes with help from his family.

"Henry has many costumes," Dely said. "He has a unicorn costume and a hot dog costume. My mom bought a dinosaur head and put it on Henry and it was super cool."

Similar to many students, Dely is looking forward to enjoying Halloween this year with his family, although he has not yet picked a costume.



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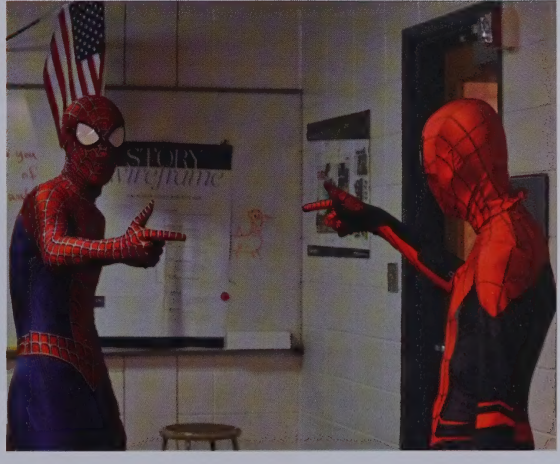


TOILET TALK: A LAVATORY DISCOURSE

JAKE HOUSER
Writer

Bathrooms. You love them, or you hate them. Most people don't even use them out of sheer fear. Homestead's bathrooms are the stuff of legend. Not in the sense that they are cream-of-the-crop bathrooms- but in the sense that on any given day you could probably find anything you could think of happening in them.

They can also get to be pretty dirty. But you probably already knew that. What you didn't know is that you would be opening up the monthly magazine to find a soliloquy trying to persuade people to be a little less reckless and help keep the bathrooms clean. This is the story you didn't know you needed.

No one blames the janitors for the occasional bad quality- they aren't the ones who ruin the bathrooms, because they aren't required use them- they have their own bathrooms. The only people to blame for this issue are Homestead's students.

"The bathrooms are definitely disgusting," Trevor Haines said (10). "We all know it isn't the janitors' faults, and frankly, I feel bad for them. Some of them are actually really clean and pretty quiet too, but a few of them look like war zones."

In the students' defense, most of the restrooms are not that bad, as previously stated by Mr. Haines, but there are certainly a few striking exceptions to this.

To find which bathroom was generally considered the worst, I asked around and tracked my answers. The overwhelming favorite for the worst bathroom in the entire building was the Freshman Academy bathroom by 8 more votes than any of the other recipients of a vote.

This was not a stunning victory by any measures, at least to me. If you've been in them, you know they are pretty bad. Other recipients of a vote include the 500s hall bathrooms (closest to room 503), the P.E. locker room bathrooms, and the 600s hall bathrooms.

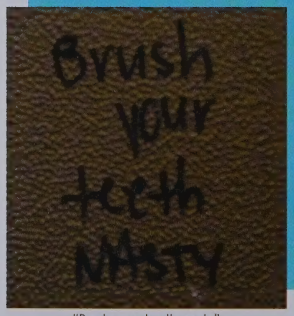
"The Freshman Academy's bathrooms are easily the worst in the school. I don't know what they do in there to make it so dirty, but man oh man, I avoid those at all costs," Brycton Vollmer (10) said. "The ones next to Door 1 are generally the best, but I think all of them can be pretty bad at times."

So the bathrooms are dirty. We know they are- but will we do anything to fix them? That is not a question I can answer. That is one for Homestead's students to answer. Regardless, to say they hold no reputation nor significance would be to lie through one's teeth. As the great Jake Houser once stated, "Bathrooms. You love them, or you hate them."

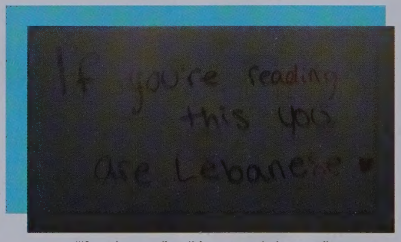
The topic is pretty outspoken by this point. Hopefully my epic soliloquy was worth you time. In other news, we have some superlatives and other stuff for you. Take a look at

OUR FAVORITE GRAFFITI

BELOW IS SOME OF THE STAFF'S FAVORITE GRAFFITI, FOUND EXCLUSIVELY IN HOMESTEAD'S BATHROOMS..

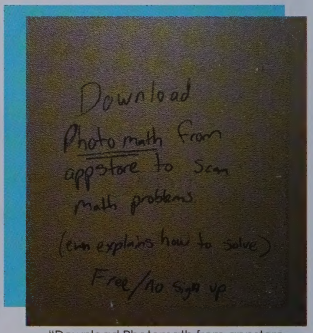


"Brush your teeth nasty"



"If you're reading this you are Lebanese"

Photos by Keely Groholski



"Download Photomath from appstore to scan math problems (can explain how to solve) free no sign up"

spread design by Jacob Houser

SUPERLATIVES

FIND EACH SUPERLATIVE WINNER ON THE MAP AND WIN ABSOLUTELY NOTHING! (EACH WINNER IS MARKED BY A CIRCLE OF THE TEXT'S CORRESPONDING COLOR.)

1. Most Likely to have emo writing on the walls: Freshman Bathrooms

2. Most Likely to have unbearably sticky floors: 500's hall bathrooms

3. Most Likely to be super crowded: Door 1 bathrooms

4. Most Likely to be empty almost all day: Gymnasium bathrooms

5. Most Likely to be squeaky clean: 400's hall bathrooms

6. Most likely to be completely forgotten: Business hall bathrooms

7. Most likely to have food everywhere: Cafeteria Bathrooms

The J List
Fall Bucket List

JUNE HILL
Executive Editor

Fall is by far my favorite season. Maybe that sounds basic, but I am seroiusly in love with this season. The changing leaves, chilly sweater weather and all the great food that comes with this time of year. Ugh, it's just the best.

For this October J List, I chose to make a fall-themed bucket list full of activities to help you celebrate the season. For each activity, I put together a sort of shopping list, which is basically things you might need to make each activity as enjoyable as possible. Woah- I just realized it is a list within the J list. Crazy.

Anyway, I hope these ideas are a bit unusual and make you excited to get out there and make some memories with family and friends this fall. Enjoy!

Graveyard Walk

Maybe this sounds a little weird, but stay with me! I do these with my family every once and awhile, and they are always so peaceful. They are especially relaxing in fall and winter when it's quieter. If you have never been to a cemetery, don't be afraid! They are actually very beautiful places. Take your time to explore, and remember to be respectful on a graveyard walk. You don't want to be haunted by an angry ghost, do you?

Graveyard Walk Necessities:
- Warm beverage in a thermos (hot chocolate, tea, coffee etc.)
- A snack if you plan on staying for a while
- Warm clothes and good walking shoes

Movie Night

Who doesn't love movies? If you don't, you're weird. On a chilly day, you might not want to be outside at all, so a cozier idea would be to have a movie night with family or friends.

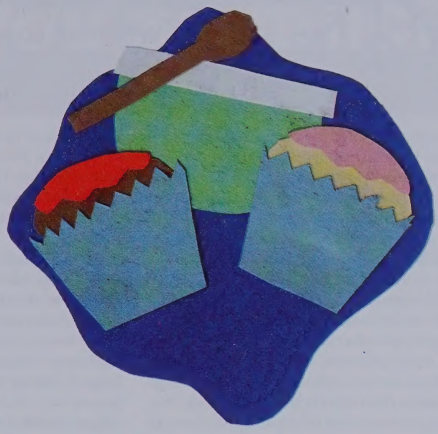
Horror movies are especially fitting the closer we get to Halloween, and I would recommend some to you if I were not too terrified to actually watch one. Obviously, there are more family friendly alternatives if you are watching with younger siblings. For example, The Night Before Christmas, Charlie Brown Halloween (aka my literal childhood) and Beetlejuice are classics.

Or you could opt for TV shows instead to make it a binge worthy night. Stranger Things, American Horror Story and Black Mirror for example. For a more nostalgic touch, watch some Scooby Doo and the old Addams Family from the 60's and 70's.

Movie Night Necessities:
- Multiple movies/ TV episodes just in case you want to make it a marathon
- Blankets (make a fort if you feel crazy)
- Popcorn
- Candy
- Drinks

spread design by June Hill

Baking

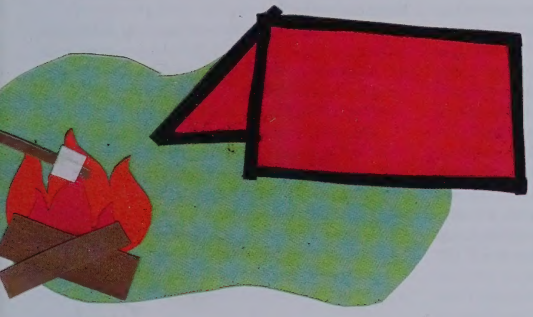


All summer, I feel like it's just too hot to bake in my house. I love all things sugary, though, so when fall comes around, it's my time to freaking shine. I really like loaves of things because they are generally easy to pull together and always delicious. Banana bread, pumpkin bread, LEMON POPPYSEED BREAD! There is a great one by Melissa Clark on the New York Times. Just look up Lemon Poppyseed Pound Cake and it should show up. Oh man, that's the stuff.

If you want to make it a real party, though, bake a ton of cupcakes and then invite people to decorate them with you. You can even find weird things like candy eyeballs and candy knives online if you want it to be more of a Halloween themed experience. I did this for my birthday one time and everyone had a lot of fun with it.

Baking Necessities:

- Your ideal recipe to bake
- Obviously, make sure you have all the ingredients. It is so sad when you get all hyped to bake something and then you are out of flour or or something stupid.
- For a decorating party: enough icing and cupcakes to go around; gummy worms, candy eyes, knives and even gravestones can be found on Amazon



Camping Trip

This one would take a little more planning, but I just did it with a friend and it was so much fun. We went to Chain O Lakes state park for a night and did some hiking, hung out by the campfire and played some board games. It was nice to be outside and gave me a chance to relax and live in the moment.

I would highly recommend going on an overnight camping trip with your family or friends. It's best in the fall because it's not too hot and the bugs will be gone, but make sure to pick a good location and a weekend where it won't be too cold. Chain O Lakes is kind of a perfect place. It's not too far away, and it has lots of easy and pretty trails; plus, there were all these cute dogs when we were there.

Camping Necessities:

- Enough food for the overnight
- Trying to make food over the fire is always fun!
- Logs to build a fire (you can buy these at the park but it is more expensive)
- Camping gear (tent, sleeping bags, blankets, pillows, sleeping mats etc.)
- Board Games
- Warm clothes

Pumpkin Carving

Okay, maybe this one is a little obvious, but it is such a fall thing that I had to include it. I do this with my family every year, and it always gets a little competitive, which makes it more memorable. Invite a bunch of people over to have a carving party!

To make it a little different, have a movie or some music playing in the background. Put some food out for everyone, because pumpkin carving might make people hungry. Just have fun with it!

Pumpkin Carving Necessities

- Enough cleaned out pumpkins for everyone (cleaning them is not the fun part, so don't make people do that)
- Carving tools
- Newspaper or something to cover the floor, which will help with the clean up process
- Some mood music, snacks or a cute Halloween movie
- Little votive candles to light the pumpkins up

BRRR...

When air conditioning is just too cold

HAFSA IBRAHIM
Writer

Although having air conditioning is a great luxury and privilege, too much can be extremely distracting. Not only that, but it makes the atmosphere unbearably uncomfortable and unpleasant.

It is not uncommon to walk into the Homestead building and feel a sense of cold. The difference in temperature between outside and inside the school is quite noticeable, making for a chilly experience each day.

While it is true that classrooms vary in temperature, most students would agree that the overall climate of the school is difficult to cope with without a few extra layers of clothing. Not only are classrooms frigid, but the hallways, library, seminar room, and lunchroom tend to be exceedingly lacking in warmth as well.

"I would bring up the temperature about three to five degrees in some of the classes," Josie Parent (11) said.

Having to wear warmer and heavier clothing due to the icy-cold temperatures of the school can be tough for students, especially during the summer months, as Logan Redwanski (9) says, "I'm tired of wearing pants when the weather is warm, but if I wear shorts and a t-shirt I know I'm going to be cold."

Additionally, as mentioned before, the temperature of the school can be so cold that sometimes students find it difficult to concentrate and focus on completing classroom tasks, which is a huge problem because it impairs learning and does not allow students to be producing their best work.

"When I'm colder, I'm more awake," Benjamin Burkle (11) said. "But that doesn't help me learn, because I'm so focused on being cold. It's a big distraction, and it makes me uncomfortable too."

So, although the set temperature of the school may prevent some students from falling asleep in class, it is utterly agonizing and a major disturbance during the day.

However, maintaining a stable and congenial environment is not as easy as it looks. In a large building like ours, principal Park Ginder points out that it is difficult to equalize the temperature due to the vastness of space and the fact that the school does not use air conditioning. Instead, we use chilled air.

"We have two chillers," Ginder said."In a building like ours, you have a chiller that chills the air or a boiler or boiler room. Then, once that air is heated or cooled, it goes into what we call air handlers, which push the cool or heated air out toward the rooms.

Students would agree that in some areas of the building, classrooms are notably hotter than others. This may be due to a classroom having more sunlight exposure than others, or simply because the room is bigger and therefore contains more air vents. Dr. Ginder continues, noting that "all kinds of things can tamper with the temperature in a building. Although it might be warm and sticky in a classroom right now, three rooms down the hall next period it's cold. It's just very difficult to control those things."

Ginder also explains that the atmosphere of the empty building is much different than when students and teachers begin to file in. The movement of so many people into and out of the school shifts the overall temperature, making it especially complicated to maintain consistency.

"Around seven in the morning, the building is a pretty decent temperature," he said. "But ten minutes after seven, the doors start opening, and all that warm or cold air comes in. It changes the balance in the building, and it takes time to catch it up. You can set things to fight against those temperature changes, but winning the battle when you bring 2,500 to 3,000 people in is quite hard. It would be the same in a lot of other big structures too, such as most schools, large retail spaces, and business areas."

Hopefully, the new building will take into account improving the chilly temperature and its repercussions on student learning, which would make each day it a little more comfortable for students and staff.

"One of the reasons we are pursuing a new building is because we would like those systems to work better than they do in our current setup. It'll still be chilled air, but the system won't be 50 years old."

ART BY LY LOTHAMER

spread design by Emmalyn Meyer

Dear TikTok, Why do we like you so much?

JUNE HILL
Executive Editor

If you have a phone, you might already have a TikTok account. These videos are everywhere, being reposted on Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat. Even if you don't have the app, it's hard to go a day without watching a TikTok. It has been downloaded 80 million times in the US alone, and worldwide, TikTok has been downloaded 800 million times.

Some teenagers say they first downloaded TikTok as a joke.

"I saw it going around on Snapchat or something; people were just posting TikToks and I thought it seemed kind of funny" Chloe Adams (11) said.

Brooke Chaffee (11) has a TikTok following of 206.2k, and agrees that she downloaded it as a joke.

"It's funny, so it's a good laugh just sitting on your phone scrolling through" Chaffee said.

TikTok was rebranded from Musical.ly (a similar app more focused on singing) in August of 2018, and Sophia Barton (11) has had TikTok since its Musical.ly days.

"I'm a loyal fan, thank you" Barton said. "There was a point where they had just rebranded from Musical.ly and there were some really weird people on it and it was kind of dead, and then all of the sudden it started becoming up and up again and now it's kind of a meme."

TikTok is packed with content - short videos all six to fifteen seconds long. People post clips of themselves dancing, singing, performing little skits, showing off their talents and so much more. But for many people, the goal is to become "TikTok famous".

"Dude, I want to be TikTok famous" Sydney Griffith (11) said, laughing.

So does Barton, who has 212 followers currently on her account, @sophkb. (Give her a follow!)

"One time I made thirteen TikToks in one day and I went to target and I bought a Hydroflask to get TikTok famous, but then I wasn't TikTok famous" Barton said with a sigh.

TikTok fame is achievable, though. Currently, Payton Carr (11) has a following of 63.3k on TikTok.

"Some of my followers were from Musical.ly before it switched over to TikTok but then it all just sprung up this year" Carr said. "In a matter of about two weeks, I gained 30k and that was kind of crazy."

Seeking TikTok fame is an enjoyable challenge for some people, but is not for everyone.

"I would (want to be TikTok famous) but I would be afraid of people at school being like 'oh, that's the TikTok girl; she sucks and if it doesn't work out that would be embarrassing,' so I don't think I will ever post mine" Adams said.

Hudson Custer's (11) TikTok account is private, and she says she could not handle having TikTok fame.

"I make TikToks but I can't dance so it takes me a really long time to learn the dances and thats why I'm on it so much" Custer said.

For less serious TikTokers, the app is just a fun way to bond with friends.

"If I'm bored, I will do one of the dances with my friends because we all like doing the dances together" said Custer.

"Whoever made Tik Tok was a genius."
-Hudson Custer (11)

Some of Mackenzie Lee's (11) friends are not on TikTok, and she does not desire Tik Tok fame, but the app is still intriguing to her.

"I wanted to see what the hype was about, because so many people were on it and I felt like I needed to get it" Lee said. "It's just funny to watch and the videos are all so entertaining and relatable."

Compared to Instagram, which can be a bit vain and negative, TikTok feels more humorous, as though people are more willing to laugh at themselves.

"Your personality comes through more on Tik Tok," Chaffee said.

Social media platforms like Instagram are too vain to celebrate weirdness the way that TikTok does.

"On Instagram, people are more photoshopped and fake" Adams said.

"I haven't seen one TikTok that is normal or that someone wouldn't be embarrassed about" Custer said, laughing.

On the surface, TikTok may seem like a funny supportive community, but it is far from perfect. Teenagers often say they find themselves scrolling for hours, avoiding homework, chores and other responsibilities.

"Let's just say (I spend) way too much (time) on it every day" Custer said.

Griffith and Lee agree that TikTok is definitely a distraction for them.

"It prevents me from doing my AP lit homework - sorry, Dr. Price" Lee said, laughing.

"Or, sometimes, you are having trouble with a math problem and you decide, 'I'm gonna make a TikTok about this'" Griffith said.

TikTok can be a distraction to many teenagers, which might have something to do with the way the app is designed.

"(The videos) are all different. You never come across the same one twice. That's why it's annoying if it refreshes in front of you - you know the video is gone forever because there is just so much content and it's all so different" Barton said.

The For You page is specified to only show the types of videos that each user likes the best. For example, if you like comedy videos, TikTok will show you a majority of goofy clips.

"And they are all like specifically for you - that's why it's called the For You Page. It's based off what you like, so it makes you interested" Lee said. "And the more people who are into it, the more successful the app is going to be."

This constant distraction can make teenagers feel as if they are addicted to the app.

It definitely can control your life" Griffith said. "It's like those movies (2016's Nerve, for example) where you get the app and then you become addicted to the app to the point where it controls your life."

Chaffee says that as soon as you download TikTok, you are hooked.

"I think everyone gets addicted and people don't take it seriously, but once you get on it, you can't stop" Chaffee said.

TikTok is having its moment right now, and how long that moment will last is anyone's guess. The world of TikTok is as entertaining, obsessive, hilarious and cruel as it gets. For better or worse, this app allows people to relax and laugh for a second... or four hours.

Autumn

dragging myself along
days split into months split into years
crinkling my nose at the thought
crushed leaves sprinkled on a seat

back breaking under the weight
scurrying along the path to catch up with the past
minds filled with vivid imaginations
intrepid contemplations
beaming constellations

a patch of dashing orange upon grey
my feet blister from the walk
will i make it in time?

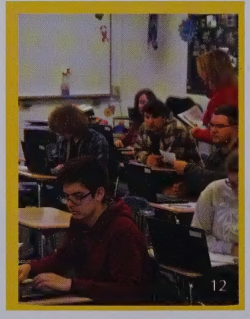
why has every day felt like thursday
staring out the window
watch living things decay
the sky weeps and pours its ash onto my doorstep

what chilly air could creep into my sweater
as i sit in warm and pleasant spaces
picturing the slow and silent shift of blooming lilacs to burnt and empty trees

-Hafsa Ibrahim (11)

Spartana

Issue 4 | November 2019



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Letter from the Editor

Dear Reader,

We are all beautifully different. We have different cultures, different beliefs, different styles and different life experiences. But despite our differences, there is something that always brings us together: food.

Whether over a family meal or at a Mexican restaurant for a Spanish project with friends, food has the tendency to unite us and allow us to connect.

In recent years, the Fort Wayne area has accumulated a variety of restaurants, many of which celebrate the growing diversity in the area. From new Thai restaurants, such as Nawa, to a newer Spanish inspired restaurant called Proximo, I am excited to see the inclusion of new cultures in the Fort Wayne environment.

In light of Thanksgiving and in celebration of food, this issue of the Spartana contains a section entirely dedicated to the food we all eat. We wanted to include diverse opinions on food, as no two meals are alike.

We also wanted to draw attention to the beautiful stories behind the meals and recipes we eat. Myself and the executive editors included recipes that we make every year for Thanksgiving, and we hope you give them a try.

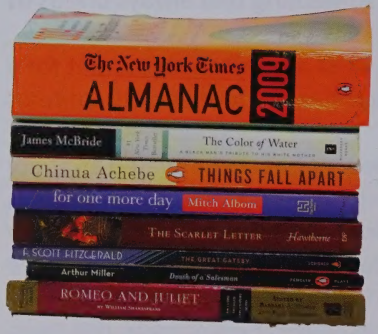
Besides food, we also have other stories to get you in the Thanksgiving spirit, but also stories related to current events. We hope you take time to check out our reading story, as we learned a lot by surveying students on what they actually read for class.

As always, please feel free to email thespartana@gmail.com if you would like to submit a letter to the editor, have any concerns, questions, comments or story leads.

Sincerely,

Mikayla Havison
Editor-In-Chief

To Read or not to Read?



Reading. Depending on who you ask, it is either a way to escape real life struggles through fantastical worlds and fictional characters, or a dreaded experience that causes stress and suffering in high schools. In many cases, it is both.

In honor of National Book Month, it seems fitting to delve into this inescapable activity, the way it affects students' lives and how its use in school could be impacting reading patterns outside of class.

Students often read outside of class, choosing not only the books they read themselves, but also the pace at which they read them.

"I really like reading outside of class," Hannah Gaither (11) said. "Back in, like, 7th grade, I used to read all the time, and I really like reading books I enjoy. I read a lot of books over the summer that I pick up from the library."

For students, reading can be a way of escaping whatever stressful realities or situations that they find themselves in.

"My favorite thing about reading is being able to get time away from the world and having something to do mentally. It's good to be able to relax while reading a good book," Gaither said.

Some students, however, find it difficult to actively enjoy reading, whether in or out of school.

"I read some small articles, but I haven't read a novel for fun since middle school," Miranda Bartz (12) said.

This brings up an important aspect of reading: school-required reading. While it is an essential part of any high school curriculum for developing critical thinking skills and being exposed to a wide variety of literature, many students find it to be an annoying diversion from what would otherwise be a fun and entertaining activity.

"Reading has become a point of frustration for me. I have associated it with my bad experiences with required reading, which have taken most of the fun out of novels," Bartz said. "If anything, school has forced me to read less because it has forced me to associate reading with frustration and stress."

Students emphasize the frustration and resentment

they feel toward required reading and the books that they typically have to read in school.

"The books that we read in school are usually famous, and I respect them for that, but they're usually not fun to read," Benjamin Burkle (11) said. "Most of them are older and not relatable. The wording is really difficult and not the way that we would talk, so I usually can't relate to any of the characters."

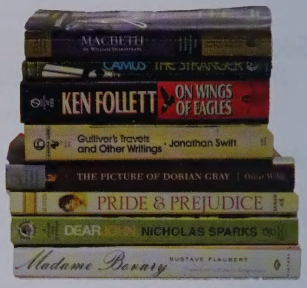
With all of the qualms against required reading, it seems unfathomable that students may actually enjoy what they would read for school. However, students can, in fact, enjoy what they read for school, especially if it is an entertaining, but still thought-provoking, title.

"I liked The Great Gatsby. It was short, it was interesting with all of the iconic party scenes, and all of the characters were interesting and people you could actually imagine meeting in real life," Burkle said. "I also liked A Raisin in the Sun. It highlighted the struggle of black people in the society that they lived in and provided a good social commentary, which I liked. It was set up in a way where the word choice was set up well by the author and made the story seem real."

In-class reading appears to have a negative impact on students' reading habits outside of school. In a Spartana-conducted survey, 58.5% of students stated that books in school had never encouraged them to find other, similar content outside of class. Considering that 63.6% of students read fewer than five books a year, it is reasonable to conclude that students could, possibly, be discouraged from reading through what they read in school.

"I would say that school reading negatively affects the way I read outside of class," Burkle said. "I don't have time to read so many books, and especially when I'm reading books I don't like, it makes it difficult to actually enjoy reading outside of school."

While there may be many voracious and avid readers at Homestead, it seems entirely possible that the books read in school could potentially harm future interest in reading. However, blaming the seeming lack of interest in school reading solely on the choice of books neglects another important factor in students' reading habits: social media.



"Social media and distractions in general keep me from reading. Over the years, my attention span has gone down. I guess a part of it is, like, Twitter, because all of the Tweets are really short, so when I have to read a super long paragraph, I don't really want to do that," Burkle said.

Social media can, however, provide other opportunities to read, catering to students who may struggle to read in a typical classroom.

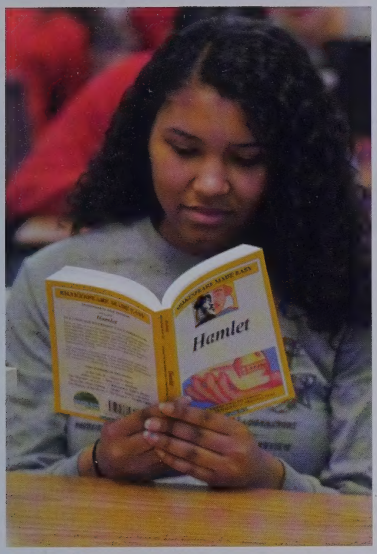
"Social media has helped me realize that there's other ways to read outside of chaptered novels," Bartz said. "Even just reading on my phone has helped; the screen size breaks up the text and makes it easier for me to get through long articles."

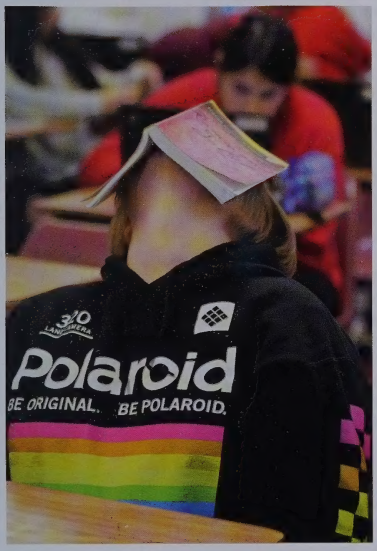
Ultimately, reading tastes and preferences are specific to the individual student. While the assigned books in school may alienate some, they are, mostly, carved in stone and provide exposure to titles students would not normally read. Nevertheless, students continue to urge for a larger role in the choice of books in school.

"I would have some student input," Burkle said. " I know it shouldn't be 100% student decided, but I still think that we should have some sort of a say in it."

Reading has become a complex subject, especially in the context of schools. The solution to the issue seems unachievable: schools cannot have too much student input, but it is difficult for students to engage with material with which they do not connect, especially considering the amount of distractions that students have available to them. So, what is the solution? That is the question. Left unanswered, it has the potential to jeopardize school reading in the future.

spread design by Elyssa Huff





Top: Sidney Miller (9) reads Shakespeare attentively in class.

Above: Anna Ford (9) places a copy of Romeo and Juliet on top of her head in annoyance.

Survey data gathered from a Spartana-conducted survey of 212 people. Disclaimer: Moby Dick was not a part of this survey; he is making a cameo. Charlotte from Charlotte's Web is also making her presence known, but she also did not participate in the survey.

What's with all the books?

*Based on a survey of 212 Homestead students

50%

50% of students said that science fiction and fantasy was their favorite genre.

29.2% of students said that they read 1 or fewer books in a year.

29%

59%

58.5% of students said that they had never read material in school that had encouraged them to find similar material.

9% of students read 15 or more books in a year.

9%

a night in paris

EMMALYN MEYER
Executive Editor

It's the night that several hundred students have been waiting for since the beginning of November. Groups of girls and guys flock to upscale restaurants in their almost-best attire. Couples exchange matching corsages and boutonnieres and marvel at each other's put-togetherness. They pose for picture after picture, taken by friends, moms and unaffiliated parties who happen to be walking by. Finally, after a quick touch-up, they're off to the Homestead cafeteria to spend a night dancing, talking, laughing and, for the girls, casting high heels to the corners of the room when their feet begin to hurt.

Homestead students know that the semi-formal dance is a night to remember. It's also a peak social event for freshmen and sophomores, who cannot attend prom unless invited by an upperclassman.

"Semi is a fun event for students to get dressed up and have fun all together at school," Amelia Elliott (10), a student government representative, said. "I think it adds to the unity of the school because the students get excited as a whole."

The sophomores in the student government are in charge of the semi-formal. The planning begins early on in the year, because there is a lot of preparation that goes into it; plus, they are new to the event-planning side of running the student government.

"Since we get elected at the end of the year, we have to start deciding themes, decorations, and getting a vague idea of what we want at the first meeting," Carly Chen (10), another student government representative, said. "Then, as time goes on, we can consolidate everything."

This process can be quite difficult for a group with many diverse ideas and visions.

"There are many different ideas in student gov that often clash," Elliott said.

Although the students have a party planner to rely on when it comes to selecting and renting decorations, many decisions are their own. The budget that the students adhere to comes from that of previous years, as well as the party planner's experience and knowledge.

"Obviously, we don't want to go insane, and we have a party planner, so when we consult with her, she already has a budget in mind and suggests things that she already knows stay within that," Chen said.

This year, the theme is "A Night in Paris". Though Chen cannot disclose much about the special features that the night will include, she is excited for one interactive component that will be a part of this year's theme.

"We're going to have these things along the sides that are almost like the storefronts of Paris that you can take pictures with – they're going to be so cute," Chen said. "They'll set them up so that they look like different stores in Paris."

Also, the theme has been changed and tailored to student opinion throughout the process.

"We were thinking about City of Love, but then we thought that it was a bit much and changed it to something less cheesy," Elliott said.

One concern from the student body is the lack of food and drink at the dance, especially since it seems that other schools might provide sustenance at their events. However, this is due to school policy and how it ties into the budget for the event.

"If we have any food at the dance, even a chip bag, we need to have it catered due to school regulations. We have to factor that into our budget along with everything else, so we just can't," Chen said.

It's of unanimous opinion, though, that the most fun part of the night is everything that happens before even arriving at the dance. For girls (and guys, supposing that they don't just wear something that they've worn before), this process begins one to three weeks before the night of semi-formal. Or, if someone is really pushing it, then he or she might begin preparing the night before the event.

"I think my favorite part of semi is getting ready for it," Chen said.

However, this opinion is not due to a lack of interest in the event itself, but rather, what the students have decided is tradition and important.

"I think the students have taken it into their own hands, going the extra mile to get ready for semi," Elliott said.

Many students shy away from attending the semi formal if they do not have a date. Even if someone does not have a date to the dance, they can still have a good experience with a group of friends.

"I think that everyone should go to semi, regardless of whether they have a date or not. I went with a group of friends last year, and we were dancing like crazy and screaming all of the songs – it was so fun," Alli Minich (11) said.

Speaking of dates: if you have one that attends a different high school, they can't come to Homestead's semi-formal due to a new rule this year that bans students from other high schools.

"I think that someone made a ruckus last year so administration just doesn't want to deal with the hassle," Elliott said.

In any case, the semi-formal dance is a great time for students to let loose and indulge in a classic teenage experience alongside their peers. The event will take place on November 23rd from 7-10 pm. Tickets are $15 today and $20 tomorrow and are available for purchase in all lunch periods.

spread design by Emmalyn Meyer

ON SHOPPING

Emmalyn's take on buying a semi dress

"Wow, I think this is the one for me!" "Oh my gosh, how is this so expensive?" "Hold on, does that dress have pockets?" "Honestly, I should have just gone thrifting this year." "How does it take someone so long to try on one thing? Did she get lost inside her dress?"

These are a few things you might hear when you're waiting inside a popular high-end dress shop, furiously sorting through dresses of every color and length, trying to find just one that would look good on you, and then waiting several decades for a fitting room door to swing open. Then, once you enter a room, you're panicked for time and basically doing yoga in an attempt to wrestle your way into a dress that's way over your price limit.

Any girl who goes to the semi-formal knows the pain of dress shopping. It's time- and savings-consuming, as well as downright frustrating. Paying $20 for a ticket to the dance is only scratching the surface of a mountain of costs, which include: a new dress, new shoes, a manicure and pedicure, and any makeup and hair you have done the night of. And it's not even prom!

Why has this become a process that ladies have to put themselves through every year? Plus, many people only wear their semi dress once - that's a lot of money spent for one occasion. Can we just agree that if the dress works one year, it's okay to wear it again for the next year's dance? Or, maybe, for prom, if it's formal enough? By the way, I'm giving a huge shoutout to girls who attend more than one semi-formal or prom in a year and have entirely different dresses to go along. Props to you; on an entirely unrelated note, I'm currently taking donations for an organization that provides impoverished family with food and drinking water.

Of course, social media norms have ruined this opportunity for us. It's seen as odd if you post a picture of yourself wearing your semi dress, then post a different picture months later with the same dress. I guess we really need to sell it to others that we own more than one dress. Of course, I'm different. Once, I posted two pictures back-to-back featuring pictures of me wearing the same dress. One month apart.

Anyway, the point of this column was originally to showcase the best places to buy semi dresses, so I'll do that now.

The most popular formal wear shop for teens at any given time is Windsor. If you're thinking of stopping in to browse the selection, don't. The space, though well spread out, is small, but its crowdedness can create a tense atmosphere. In my experience, Windsor offers many styles, but fails to cater to all customers' body sizes, and the styles tend to be more flattering for more petite figures than round ones. Also, in all honesty, they're not very modest, so if showing a little skin is not your thing, other stores might be a better fit. The prices are fairly reasonable, but for the material quality, it's not exactly worth it.

Usually, I like to stop at Macy's at the Glenbrook Mall first, because it carries a large variety of colors and styles. The prices are reasonable, too. Plus, the store can also tailor to your other needs, such as high-end makeup, shoes, designer clutches, a baby stroller, pots and pans, and large giraffe stuffed animals. However, this year, I found the quality and quantity of dresses to be a bit lacking, but that may just be because I went the third week of October.
JCPenney is another department store that has a slightly classier feel than Macy's. That could just be the Sephora that's parked upstairs, though. There's nothing like rubbing glittery powders all over your face and hands before going to try on expensive dresses. I would discourage you from eating sugary foods prior to your trip to JCPenney, though, as you might run out of steam before you can even find the dress section.

I've also heard that clearance racks, especially at Von Maur, can be a gold mine sometimes. In general, cheap stores like Kohl's are great for deals. Here's a life hack: if you randomly decide to go to semi the night before it, Kohl's can come in handy, because it is open until 12 am on Fridays. Although you might not end up with the best dress in the cafeteria, you will (involuntarily) have spent much less money and time on a dress than you would have otherwise.
Whether you buy a new dress, thrift one, steal one from your older friend who graduated four years ago, or wear last year's, I can guarantee your semi-formal experience will not be affected.

Humans of Homestead

KEELY GROHOLSKI
Writer

Humans of Homestead is a column where four students, one from each grade level, answer a question, and this month in honor of Thanksgiving, they were asked to talk about their most memorable meal. From Haitian Beignets to an unfortunate meaty meltdown, these stories serve as a reminder that sharing a meal is always a way to connect with the ones you love. Here are some students who share their stories!

'23 Caleb Bolton

I love cooking and eating with my family and sometimes my friends. I'll make food for Thanksgiving, same with Christmas, but my family lives in Saint Louis so I don't get to do make food a lot anymore. But I still do it when I can, I mostly cook regular meals for my family. I remember a very special meal. It was me, my dad, and my brother and we had gone to Costco. We decided to grab some stuff for dinner, and we ended up going home with a bunch of stuff. I was about 8-ish at the time. My dad went to work on dinner and we had some sausages. We had never tried this sausage before. I can still remember it had a reddish tint to it along with some white rice and it smelled so delicious like it was the best meal that I would have ever eaten. So we all sat down and began to cut the sausage. Although once we did get a bite of what I thought would be the most delicious thing ever, it turned out to taste like literal garbage. We couldn't fathom what it tasted like before we grabbed our napkins and then just spit it out. It was that gross. It felt as if all of my tastebuds died and then died again, it was really that bad. But looking back at it, it was really quite funny. My family and I bring it up sometimes and we just laugh about it. The reason I find it so memorable is because it was so bad that it's just burned into my brain.

'22 Trevor Haines

I prefer eating with my family without any specific occasion because I don't enjoy big get-togethers. My most memorable meal is my mom's mashed sweet potatoes when I was 10 years old. It was dinner time, and I was with my mom and my dad. What made it so memorable was that my parents bribed me to eat my dinner (and like any child I accepted it). It tasted horrible and the texture felt so weird in my mouth. I don't even know how she managed to make a potato taste so bad, but she managed to. I felt like puking. My mom, surprisingly, did not plan for me to not like it. It has got to be my least favorite meal.

spread design by June Hill

'21 Jai'Niya Barrett

I remember enjoying a Haitian dessert called "Haitian Beignets." I felt almost happy when I ate the beignet or more at peace. I planned and made this dish when I was 12 years old, and it was my first time creating/making Beignets. When creating/making this dish with my mother at home I always considered making them with her a good memory. I think back to it often, mostly because of all the joy I felt with my mother when making the dish. There were some downs but mostly ups when I made them. Till this day Haitian Beignets are my favorite food.

'20 Mollie Kloster

I enjoy eating out with my family and friends, no matter the purpose. My family always goes out to eat for birthdays, as well as the "traditional" Friday night out to Cebollas. Whenever it is a holiday, we stay in and make it ourselves and everyone helps out in some way they can. I do remember a specific meal, it is called chicken broccoli braid. I always felt happy whenever we would make this because it isn't something you can think about the day of and just make. It takes some time and I think that's what also makes it special. I think the part that made it most memorable was helping my mom make it. I would always mix it together and we put it in the Pillsbury croissant rolls and I was always in charge of sprinkling the chopped almonds on top and making sure everything was even. Having this meal wasn't necessarily a special occasion, it was just whenever everyone wanted it and we had all the ingredients. I still enjoy having this and it was my favorite when I was little, but now I would not say it's my favorite. There have been others that I like a little bit more, but I still enjoy this meal all the same.

BEST OF THANKSGIVING TV

The J List

JUNE HILL
Executive Editor

It's officially the holiday season, and that means television is at it's finest. For this month's J List, I have compiled nine binge worthy Thanksgiving themed TV episodes that embody this hungry holiday. From Charlie Brown's feast of toast and jellybeans, to the hilarity of Slapsgiving ll, these episodes are comical, endearing and ultimately reminiscent of the kindness and togetherness that Thanksgiving stands for. Many genres of TV entertainment from sitcom to drama see Thanksgiving as the perfect tradition to base an episode off of. Because after all, this is the time of year to reflect and give thanks for what we have.
P.S Yes I did notice the girly theme: (New GIRL, Gossip GIRL, Gilmore GIRLS) but im sure these episodes will appeal to all genders.

FRIENDS

Season 6, Episode 9

Monica and Ross's parents come to the loft for thanksgiving, and they seem to hate Chandler who spends most of the night trying to appease them. Rachel is in charge of making Thanksgiving dessert, a traditional english trifle, which she of course manages to mess up. This episode features Joey's memorable line "custard good, jam good, meat gooood." Also I would just like to remind everyone that friends will be gone from netflix after the new year, so pack it in!

BROOKLYN 99

Season 1, Eppisode 10

For some reason I had never seen Brooklyn 99 until this school year, and I haven't seen them all yet, but I think season one's Thanksgiving is going to be hard to beat. Amy hosts dinner at her apartment, planning to officially ask Holt to be her mentor. Unfortunately for her, Holt leaves diner early to solve a case, taking Jake (who despises Thanksgiving) with him. The episode spirals, Boyle Bingo, Amy's lack of cooking skills and a hunger stricken Terry make it thoroughly enjoyable.

MACY'S DAY PARADE

The crem dela crem of Thanksgiving traditions in my family is the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Every year we pull the one tiny tv in my grandparents house out into the living room so everyone can enjoy the parade while we cook, play board games and spend time together. The extravagant floats, sometimes terrible lip syncing, laughing at the freezing people on screen, yep it's a holiday tradition I will never miss.

spread design by June Hill

GOSSIP GIRL

Season 1, Eppisode 9

As always, this episode of Gossip Girl is packed full of cutthroat drama. Serena and Blair plan on having Thanksgiving together per upper East Side tradition, but end up having a fight and Serena leaves. The episode is full of flashbacks to the previous year's Thanksgiving, adding a layer of lighthearted nostalgia. This episode ends peacefully enough, unmistakably reminding its viewers of the importance of family and thankfulness, especially during the holiday season.

GILMORE GIRLS

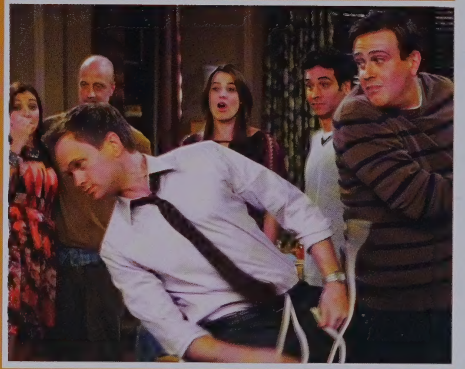
Season 3, Eppisode 9

Rory and Loreali, wanting to make an appearance at all their friend's tables, decide to eat four Thanksgivings. They prepare for their food marathon by running errands around quaint Stars Hollow, and stretching out their stomachs by eating (duh). There is an argument between Loreali and her parents at Thanksgiving #4, and one later on with more drama between Jess (Rory's current boyfriend) and Dean (her first). This episode is the perfect mix of lighthearted Thanksgiving togetherness and loveable Gilmore wit.

BLACK-ISH

Season 3, Eppisode 7

Ruby loves Thanksgiving, and is in a great mood until Earl's sister shows up. The kids try to find out why Ruby hates her so much. Dre and Rainbow go on an awkward babymoon the day before Thanksgiving. It all wraps up with Dre talking about forgiveness, thankfulness, being there for eachother, having fun together and reconnecting. A very sweet episode.



HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER

Season 5, Eppisode 9

What about Slapsgiving one you ask? Meh. It's fine I guess. I don't watch How I Met Your mother as religiously as I watch Gilmore Girls, but this is an especially fun episode. Basically Marshall bequeaths one of his five "slap bet" slaps to Teddy and Robin, who spend much of the episode fighting over who gets to slap Barney. Lily's estranged father, who is "dead to her," shows up for dinner and Lily is NOT happy. But he is not empty handed; he comes carrying Diseases!

NEW GIRL

Season 1, Eppisode 7

Jess wants to cook the first Thanksgiving in the loft. Realizing she is a terrible chef, Schmidt takes over in the kitchen trying many strange and questionable ways to get their frozen turkey thawed. Paul, Jess's friend from work comes over, carrying his violin for some reason, and has a hard time fitting in with Jess's roommates, especially Nick. The group ends up moving to the neighbors apartment to eat because of a turkey related emergency, and a horrific surprise awaits them there.

A CHARLIE BROWN THANKSGIVING

Peppermint Patty invites herself over, and Charlie Brown, Linus, Snoopy and Woodstock cook a Thanksgiving dinner of jelly beans, toast, popcorn and pretzels for all their friends. This episode was a staple of my childhood, and I definitely watched it at least once a year. Also, I still really want to eat that iconic Thanksgiving dinner.

Leaders: Made or in the Making?

MIKAYLA HAVISON
Editor-In-Chief

Highschool is a time of growth. Throughout highschool, teenagers begin to develop identities, find their passions and learn the importance of responsibility. Although maturity often comes naturally with age, highschool is a critical time for students to be exposed to role models and activities, which foster positive character traits. Many of the programs and expectations are led and set by parents and staff; however, students are also finding their own ways to influence and work with peers.

At Homestead, there are many student leaders who work to make changes in the student body. Despite not having the same experiences as adults, student leaders have reflected maturity and discipline well past their age.

Students often listen to the guidance of their teachers; however, arguably more often listen to their peers. Teenagers desire to listen to peers can be a bad thing, especially when it comes to bullying and pressure, but when peer influence is applied correctly, it can have numerous benefits for the student body and social environment at school.

"Being a leader at Homestead is really important because with proper leadership, you are a really good role model for other students, which creates a better environment," Harper Harris (12), student, said.

Outside of the classroom, Harris plays a critical role in student government, serving as the group's president.

"I do believe that student leadership is effective," Harris said. "Students will most likely follow other students that they look up to, even over teachers sometimes because they can relate to student leaders more."

Often, the student government is considered a popularity contest, which is not entirely inaccurate. This can be upsetting to hard-working students who are interested in governance or helping the student body. It can also be speculated that the student government is not a fair representation of the student body, as there are few merit-related requirements to obtaining a position. The potential lack of representation can be rightfully concerning to students, as the student government is responsible for allocating funds and deciding if a club is a good fit for the school.

Although there are many who oppose student leadership in the form of student government, due to its roots in social circles, the student government has certainly benefited Homestead. The student representatives within the government also seem to do their best to represent the desires of the student body. Whether through dances or blood drives, the student government has made a positive impact.

If the school wanted to make the student government more inclusive and representative of the student body, they could consider informing voters on what student government actually does and allow students to share their ideas, rather than quickly leaping to elections, where students often do not know most of the names on the ballot.

Even though the student government appointment process and proceedings can sometimes be frustrating, there are also other student leadership positions that students can get involved in.

Apart from governance, students can be effective leaders in academic, athletic and miscellaneous clubs and activities offered at the school. From soccer to speech and debate, from philosophy club to Model United Nations, the vast majority of clubs and teams at Homestead are led by students, who are eager to make their own opportunities and foster cooperative relationships with peers.

If a student is passionate about a subject that does not have a club, they should consider starting their own club and being a leader by making the school a more enjoyable place for students.

The school prides itself with having student leaders for almost every extracurricular activity, but despite the successes of many student-led clubs, student leadership is not always successful.

Often, student leadership fails because of college applications. As ironic as it sounds, some clubs are only started for the benefit of boistering college applications and senior club leaders may also lose enthusiasm as college applications are turned in. These events are natural, as students have busy lives, which can be difficult to balance with the extracurriculars they join, but for other club members it can be frustrating.

Over the years, many clubs at the school have failed due to lack of organization, so it is essential that student leaders are passionate or purposeful in their proceedings.

Despite the negative experiences with student leadership, it is undoubtedly an essential part of growth during adolescence, something that everyone should try at least once during the highschool experience.

spread design by Mikayla Havison

ARE LAWMAKERS BORED OF EDUCATION?

MATTHEW QUINTOS
Online Editor

Currently, Dr. Jenniffer McCormick is Indiana's Superintendent of Public Instruction. However, she has announced that she will not be seeking re-election for a second term, citing Indiana's difficult governing structure. This position was set to become a governor appointed position in 2025. With Dr. McCormick's early departure, lawmakers are scrambling to move the change up to 2021.

"Indiana's governance structure is complicated and creates unnecessary challenges. We can get things done for kids but when the governance structure is becoming a problem for kids that's not why I intended to get into office," McCormick said.

Dr. McCormick is the head of the State Board of Education, a separate entity from the Indiana Department of Education. This year, State Representative Ed Delaney has filed House Bill 1147, which would eliminate the State Board of Education. Representative Delaney has made it clear that he and other Republican lawmakers are strongly opposed to the State Board of Education.

Wait a minute. What exactly does the State Board of Education do? Why are some lawmakers trying to eliminate it? What could it mean for Homestead students? This article is going to get to the bottom of these pressing concerns.

According to the IndyStar, the State Board of Education is in charge of "authorizing the distribution of billions of dollars in state education funds to local schools, adopting rules to implement various programs and requirements, evaluating school performance and implementing interventions to improve performance".

House Bill 1147, filed by Representative Delaney, would eliminate the 11 person State Board of Education and transfer its power to the Indiana Department of Education. If this bill passes, it could mean that Indiana would join Minnesota and Winsconsin as the only states in the nation without a State Board of Education.

Indiana is one of the only states that has an appointed State Board of Education, instead of an elected one. Furthermore, the Superintendent of Public Instruction has traditionally been an elected position; however, lawmakers are changing this to an appointed one. Dr. McCormick is the last democratically elected Superintendent of Public Instruction.

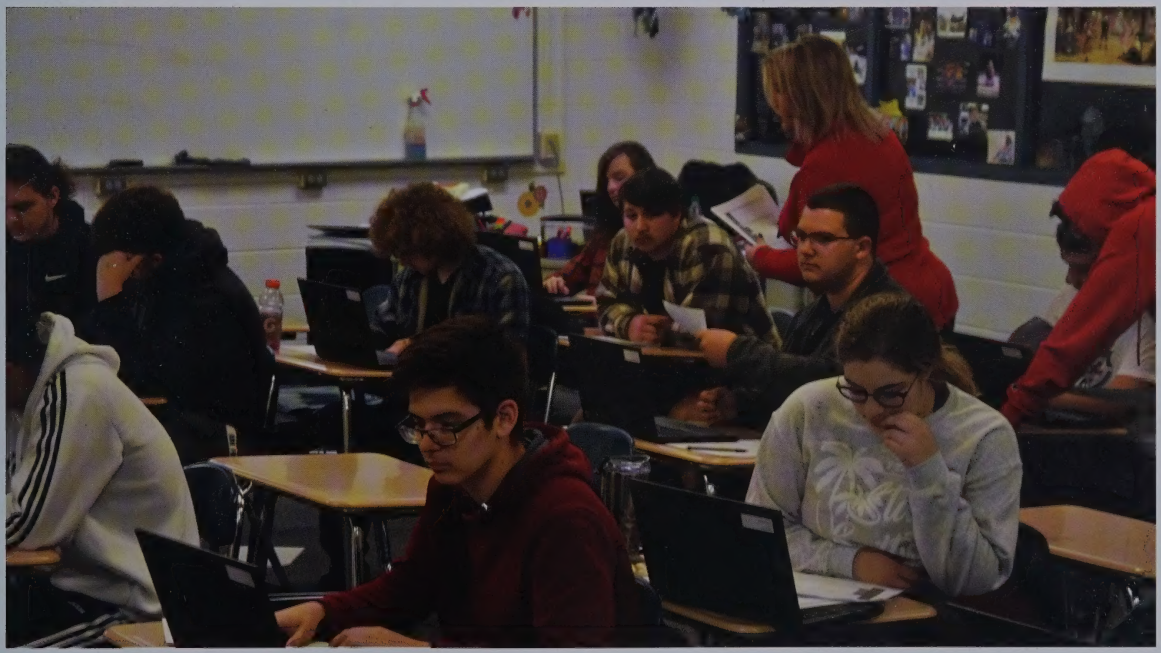
Major changes are coming in regards to the process of how Indiana's educational leadership is selected. These changes appear to be undemocratic, as they force citizens out of the selection process. Soon, citizens will be unable to elect their Superintendent of Public Instruction. This fact is compounded by the information that the entire State Board of Education is appointed by the governor. For true democratic representation, both the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction would have to be elected positions.

The State Board of Education and the Indiana Department of Education both have differing roles that often put them in conflict with each other. Glenda Ritz, the previous Superintendents of Public Instruction was often in conflict with the Indiana Department of Education. Due to this, the General Assembly has taken away power from the Department of Education and given to the State Board of Education.

Dr. McCormick has noted that the changes over the years to the Indiana Board of Education has resulted in a challenging and counterproductive relationship.

Currently, Representative DeLaney's bill is in its first reading, as it was referred to the Council of Education. It is yet to be seen if this bill will progress to the house floor and undergo a vote.

Until then, Indiana's educational structure will remain as it is.



LET'S DIG IN!

Thanksgiving revolves around family. No, scratch that; Thanksgiving is all about the food, and that is why the rest of this magazine is devoted to everyone's favorite part of this joyous holiday. Enjoy reading a debate over mashed potatos vs. stuffing, what our exchange students think of this all American holiday and find out what it's like to be vegetarian at Thanksgiving. Have a happy holiday!

spread design by June Hill

Recipes From the Editors

The Spartana editors each share a recipe that always has a place on their Thanksgiving tables.

Emmalyn's Hot Rolls

Yields: 8 servings
Total time: 40 minuets

Ingredients

- ☐ 18 oz. (4 cups) all-purpose flour
- ☐ 1 package (2-1/4 tsp.) rapid-rise yeast
- ☐ 1/3 cup sugar
- ☐ 1 tsp. salt
- ☐ 1 cup buttermilk (or 1 cup water and ¼ cup dried buttermilk powder)
- ☐ 1 tbs dried dill
- ☐ 4 oz. (8 tbs.) unsalted butter
- ☐ 3 large egg yolks

Preparation

1. In bread maker bowl whisk together the flour, sugar, dried buttermilk, dill and salt.
In a small saucepan, heat the milk and butter, stirring until the butter melts and the liquid is very warm, between 115° and 125° F.
2. Dump the warm milk-butter mixture and the egg yolks into the flour and place pan in bread maker. Add yeast. Set to Dough setting.
3. Lightly grease a 9x13-inch baking dish. Turn the dough onto a clean work surface (no need to flour; the dough is soft but not sticky) and gently press to deflate. Using a pastry scraper, divide the dough into 16 equal pieces, each about2 oz. (use scale to be sure)
4. Put a piece of dough in your palm (again, no flour). With the edge of your other palm (curved slightly), press gently but firmly on the dough, rotating it repeatedly until it forms a smooth-skinned ball with a sealed bottom. Put the ball in the pan, sealed side down, and repeat with the remaining dough.
5. Cover the pan with the plastic and let the dough rise until almost doubled, about 30 minuets. Meanwhile, heat the oven to 375°F. Remove the plastic and bake the rolls until they're puffed and browned, about 20 minuets. Serve warm.

"They're basically the keystone food of our Thanksgiving dinner. Everybody looks forward to it every year and once you step into our house on Thanksgiving day, you can smell the rolls baking and it's amazing."
- Emmalyn

June's Grandma's Mashed Potatoes

Yields: 8 servings
Total time: 40 minuets

Ingredients

- ☐ 5 pounds small red potatoes, half peeled, quartered
- ☐ 6 ounces cream cheese, softened
- ☐ 1 cup sour cream
- ☐ 2 tbs. butter or margarine
- ☐ 2 teaspoons onion salt
- ☐ 1 tsp. salt
- ☐ ¼ tsp. pepper

Preparation

1. Cook the potatoes in boiling water to cover in a saucepan until tender; drain well. Mash until smooth.
2. Add the cream cheese, sour cream, 2 tbs. butter, onion salt, salt and pepper and beat until smooth and fluffy.
3. Spoon into a buttered 9x13-inch baking dish. Dot with additional butter. Bake at 350° degrees for 30 minutes or until heated through.

"My grandma tends to use more cream cheese than the recipie calls for. Maybe thats why they are so good!"
-June

Mikayla's Lithuanian Apple Cookies

Yields: 20 cookies
Total time: 40 minuets

Ingredients

- ☐ 1 cup flour
- ☐ 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ☐ 1 egg
- ☐ ½ cup sugar
- ☐ 1 teaspoon vanilla sugar
- ☐ ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ☐ 1 tablespoon sour cream
- ☐ ¼ cup oil
- ☐ a pinch of salt
- ☐ 2 cup apples
- ☐ 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- ☐ icing sugar to sprinkle (optional)

Preparation

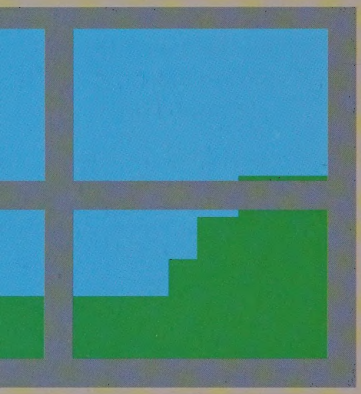
1. Peel and core apples, cut into small cubes and sprinkle with lemon juice
2. Beat egg with sugar, vanilla sugar, cinnamon and salt. Add sour cream and oil and continue beating.
3. Sift flour with baking soda, add beaten eggs and apple cubes.
4. Cover a baking tray with baking paper. Place tablespoons of the batter on the tray. Bake 15-20 minutes in 360 degree oven (they should be lovely brownish on the top). Cool down and sprinkle with icing sugar if using.

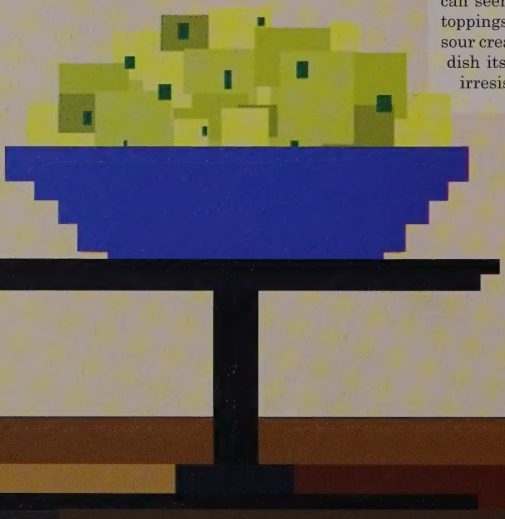
"They don't taste like cookies, but they taste like wonderful apple pancakes."
- Mikayla

MASHED POTATOES

Thanksgiving is a time of thankfulness and getting together with your family, right? Wrong!

Keely Groholski
Writer





It is argued that mashed potatoes are the pinnacle of Thanksgiving (besides turkey). It is always the side that you get with your turkey, along with your Grandma's special gravy that can make your mouth water. No one wants the plain tasting, weird-looking side called Stuffing.

Mashed Potatoes contain protein which can help your heart and weight problems. It may taste a bit bland at first, but the more you eat, the better it tastes.

Take it from Chef Gordon Ramsay, who adds some round red potatoes and a lot of green onions. Which makes the potatoes very smooth, melting in your mouth.

Now chefs are an obvious choice to back up our creamy competitor, but there are tons of other celebrities who all can make a killer mash, such as Tyler Florence, Oprah, and even 2 Chainz!

Now, sometimes Mashed Potatoes can seem a little boring, but that's where the toppings come in. You can pile on tons from sour cream or bacon to soothe your hunger. The dish itself was already too good to resist- it's irresistible now.

Stuffing does not go well with any toppings, it's one and done. Talk about boring! There's no flavor, no zest and no customization to it. At least with mashed potatoes, you can turn something boring into your own creative masterpiece.

Apparently, there are two names for stuffing, the second one being dressing. That's a bit confusing.

Mashed potatoes have only one name- much simpler. Mashed potatoes have been around since the 1600s, and are a staple of a classic Thanksgiving spread, while stuffing was made almost 250 years later.

The process of making Mashed Potatoes is incredibly easy. Plus, for working-class people, mashed potatoes are cheaper. Unlike stuffing, which you have to spend more time on, mashed potatoes are easy to make and not at all time-consuming.

To end the argument once and for all, stuffing is literally just Thanksgiving flavored croutons. It is watered down bread in a bowl with salt on it. Yuck.

VS. STUFFING

Thanksgiving is about food, stuffing your face full of turkey, rolls, and what I believe to be the most debated side dishes of the holiday: mashed potatoes or stuffing.

Stuffing is essential to the Thanksgiving plate. Thanksgiving would not be complete without it. It not only tastes good but is good for you.

Stuffing is derived from bread, but if the chef wants a healthier side they can add some veggies and fruits such as carrots or dried cranberries which can give you carbohydrates to start the day. It's a mix of some food groups to give you the energy to push through that Thanksgiving food coma.

Mashed Potatoes are plain tasting and have this weird texture that makes you want to vomit. Toppings might be able to make it a little better, but you shouldn't have to add on to a dish to make it good!

Unlike Mashed Potatoes, where you need to add mashed potatoes for it to be good Stuffing is enjoyable without any toppings needed. Stuffing although plenty of people can add toppings to make it taste even better, everyone knows that you need toppings to spice Mashed potatoes up.

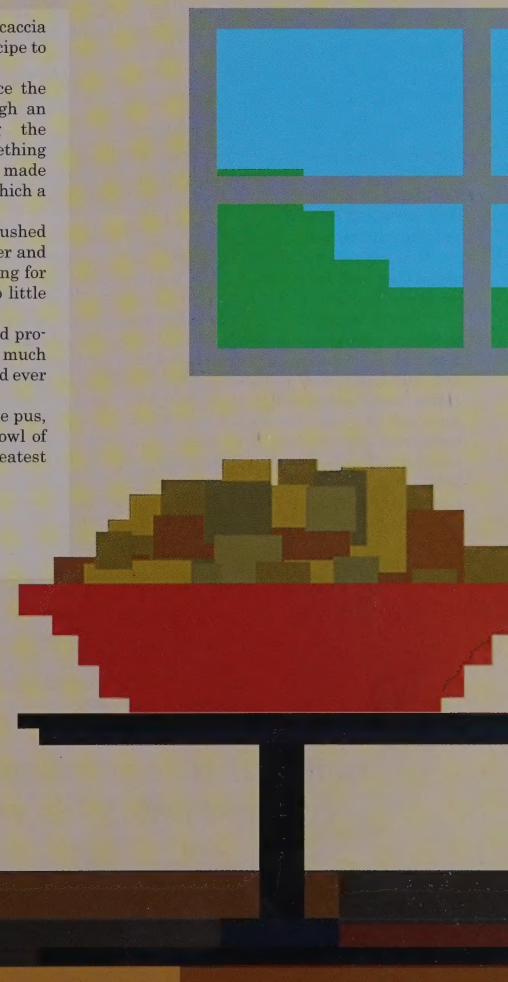
Tons of well-known chefs can get behind this wonderful side dish. Guy Fieri, Rachel Ray, and Tom Colicchio from Top Chef are prime examples. Guy Fieri got his inspiration for stuffing from Italy, combining focaccia bread and sun-dried tomatoes into his recipe to add a zesty tang to his plate.

Stuffing has been around since the 1850s, when America was going through an industrial revolution, revolutionizing the Thanksgiving meal palette with something easy and quick to make. Now, yes, it was made after Mashed Potatoes, but the date at which a dish is invented shouldn't matter.

Mashed Potatoes just seem rushed and too easy to slip upon. Boil some water and throw the powder in there. Leave it sitting for too long and it's crunchy, leave it for too little and it's runny.

Stuffing has a process, and said process captures the beauty of the dish. It's much more complex than mashed potatoes could ever be.

And in the end, mashed potatoes look like pus, and who wants to eat a big steaming bowl of pus? Eat a warm bowl of Stuffing, the greatest Thanksgiving dish.



Plant POWERED

Eating Your Way Towards a Cleaner World

ANNA TOPMILLER
Writer

Vegetarian and vegan diets are growing in popularity as the world becomes more health and environmentally conscious.

As of 2015, 3.4% (just over 8 million) Americans described themselves as vegetarians. However, there has been a slow, but steady increase in vegetarianism over the years.

Even at Homestead vegetarianism is increasing, many students observe these diets for personal or religious reasons. Whatever their reasons, students know they are doing their part to help animals and the environment.

It is not a secret that a vegetarian or vegan diet leads people to choosing healthier foods, and ultimately, a better diet.

"The main positive [of vegetarianism] is that it pushes you to have a healthier diet. I fill my meals with lots of vegetables and fruits and other protein options. Not eating meat significantly lowers a person's risk of heart disease, so becoming a vegetarian at a younger age, I know I am treating my body well and developing good habits that will help me in the future," Olivia Creech (11) said.

Animal rights is a major concern for many vegetarians. The conditions the animals are kept in raise major issues about animal welfare that must be addressed.

Not only can vegetarianism be helpful for your health, but it is also beneficial for the environment. Also, it takes less water to subsidize a vegetarian diet. A plant-based diet releases two and a half times less carbon emissions than a meat-based one. 30% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions is from the process of taking the animal to the plate.

It takes less land to feed a vegetarian diet than to feed a non-vegetarian one, because forests need to be cleared in order to make room for farm land. An anonymous junior cites environmental concerns as one of her reasons for continuing their vegetarian diet.

"I don't contribute to the raising and killing of innocent animals, it's wrong to raise them even though that's what they were "born" for, or the environmental side effects of raising livestock such as runoff and leaving a big carbon footprint," says the anonymous junior.

If you are considering going vegetarian, have a good plan and do not change too much too quickly. Easing yourself off of meat is the best way to be able to stay committed to a major dietary shift. Getting in over your head and quitting "cold turkey" can lead to your reversion back to eating meat.

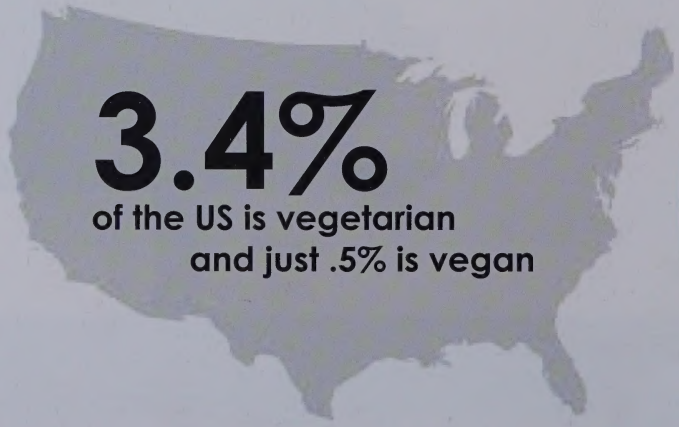
An anonymous junior suggests that you "make sure you are doing it because it's what you want to do and make sure you have a solid reason to do it. Don't make it a social decision, but actually follow through with it once you've started. Even just eating less meat on a weekly basis would be better than 'going vegetarian' and then switching back because it's too much of a change."

If you are considering going vegetarian, remember that you need to be careful about what you eat to avoid malnourishment.

"Remind yourself of all the different nutritional needs that your body has. Make sure your diet fulfills all of those needs, especially the protein category. You have to be really aware of the other protein options out there like dairy, beans, and nuts and make sure you consume enough of that kind of protein to make up for not having meat," Creech said.

"It's not that hard!" Pravi Jain (12) says, "There are so many meat substitutes and most restaurants and really accommodating."

Vegetarianism has many positives; from a healthier lifestyle to a cleaner planet. If you do plan to go vegetarian, know that there are many options for you and you are doing your part to make a kinder and cleaner world.



spread design by Anna Topmiller

1. There are plenty of delicous meat-sustitutes availiable at most grocery stores such as Kroger and Meijer. Many vegan and vegetarians use these in place of meat in their meals. They are also a great source of protein!
2. Believe it or not, but Oreo cookies are vegan!
3. The veggie burger is a staple to non-vegetarians and vegetarians alike! At the store, the Morning Star Farms and Boca veggie burgers are delicious! There are different types ranging from tomato basil to "meat-lovers" (a personal favorite). At restaurants, the BurgerFi beyond burger is one of the best in town!
4. Michelle Obloma enjoyes a vegetarian-firendly meal in the Homestead cafeteria. The HHS cafeteria has plenty of options for those who chose to not eat meat.

A Foreign FEAST

Hear the foreign exchange students' perspectives about Thanksgiving.

Darya Kirilova
- Kazakhstan

Rebecca Radu
- Romania

- Marlene Erdmann
- Germany

spread design by Claire Elliott

CLAIRE ELLIOTT
Writer and Designer

It's Thanksgiving, 2016. Your little cousin, David, asks for a police baboon. He says he is going to arm it with a bazooka. Life is good.

Experiences like these are an annual ritual for Americans on the fourth Thursday of November. However, for Homestead's foreign exchange students, this year's will be their first.

"I've known about Thanksgiving since I was a kid because I kept seeing it in the cartoons and shows I was watching," Rebecca Radu (11) said.

Radu explains that she will spend Thanksgiving with her host family, and is overall anticipating the classic Thanksgiving foods.

"I'm excited to have turkey with mashed potatoes and gravy. We do have turkeys in Romania, but we don't really eat them for some reason," Radu said.

Instead of turkey in Romania, there is a variety of delicious traditional foods.

"We have mici, which literally translates into "little one," which are kind of like tiny thick sausages, but much better than regular ones," Radu said.

Specific events, too, have recurring dishes, such as coliva, a yummy dessert.

"So if you go to a funeral in Romania and people are not sad, don't be shocked, it's because there's coliva," Radu said.

Regarding the purpose of Thanksgiving, Radu approves.

"I think it's really cool that there's a holiday where you can just gather with your family (or friends) and be grateful for things," Radu said.

But, her favorite American holiday falls under the spooky category.

"I love Halloween. The biggest disappointment of my life was finding out we don't celebrate it," Radu said.

Darya Kirilova, a foreign exchange student from Kazakhstan, learned about Thanksgiving before her arrival in America too, when she studied the English language.

"I used to eat mashed potatoes, gravy and some other traditional Thanksgiving food every day in Kazakhstan, because it's just what we normally prepare," Darya Kirilova (11) said.

However, is still looking forward for the turkey, but has never tried pumpkin pie, and is excited for her first tasting.

"I can't wait for this day to come, because it will be so cool. There will be many wonderful food and people that I love!" Kirilova said.

In Kazakhstan, the biggest holiday is Nauryz, although Kirilova likes the Christmas atmosphere. Nauryz begins on the Spring Equinox, usually around March 21, and signifies the new year.

"The most popular holiday meal is horse meat. I know it sounds awful, but it's really common and almost all people in Kazakhstan love it," Kirilova said.

Kirilova also enjoys the purpose of Thanksgiving: giving thanks and being with your family.

Differing from Kirilova and Radu, Marlene Erdmann did not know about Thanksgiving's specifics before her arrival.

"I didn't get why people celebrate it here, because I thought it was just an event where people eat a lot of food," Erdmann (12) said.

However, now being introduced to the concept, believes the holiday is a good opportunity to gather with family and friends, and give thanks.

"I'm excited to try the turkey and the stuffing, because people really seem to love it," Erdmann said.

Erdmann stated that she will not be having gravy, because she does not like it at all. In fact, this year she will be celebrating two Thanksgivings, one with her host family and one with her friends.

"We have a holiday called Erntedankfest, translated harvest fest, and people 100 years ago used to celebrate the harvest, by inviting family, gather and eat the food, they harvested," Erdmann said, although she mentioned the holiday is not as celebrated today.

Common holiday foods in Germany include duck, potatoes, red cabbage dish, and gingerbread.

All of the foreign exchange students seem to be exciting to try the American holiday and the trademark foods that come along with it.

rise n' roll

BAKED GOODS AT RISE N' ROLL

Although it appears to be small from the outside because it's located in a busy strip mall on Illinois Road, Rise'n Roll has a lot on the inside.

It's different than the other places on this list because Rise'n Roll has the most variety on their menu.

While they have coffee, they are more known for their Amish baked goods. This includes items such as pies, doughnuts, cookies, and more.

Along with this, they also have a lunch and breakfast menu that features sandwiches, salads, and soups.

One of Rise'n Rolls' signature items on their menu is the cinnamon caramel doughnut, which is a delicious, but messy.

What makes Rise'n Roll unique is that it has a homey feel to it, like a family member baked for you.

It should be noted, however, that it closes early, at 5pm, on the weekdays and isn't open on Sundays.

This fall they offer seasonal treats such as pumpkin bars and caramel apples with orange and brown sprinkles.

The staff is very friendly and they offer a free cup of coffee with your purchase.

LOCATION.....★★★

PRICE.....★★★★

VARIETY OF ITEMS.....★★★★½

AESTHETIC.....★★½

QUALITY OF FOOD AND COFFEE.....★★★★

mocha lounge

Mocha Lounge recently moved to a larger building on Covington Road, and the change has been well received.

Mocha Lounge has many different types of coffee and several other drinks as well. Along with this, Mocha Lounge also has baked goods including brownies, cake pops, sandwiches, and more.

The atmosphere of Mocha Lounge is comfortable and with friends, it's a great place to study at. It's normally quiet, and you often find people having meetings there while enjoying some coffee.

One of the things that makes Mocha Lounge stand out is how they appeal to Fort Wayne locals.

On the side of their cups the words "DRINK LOCAL" stand out in black font, which is both a fun way to make things more interesting and promote local businesses.

Mocha Lounge often has a seasonal menu, but this fall they did not.

They do have hot drinks such as lattes, teas and hot chocolates, however, that are sure to keep you warm during this cold winter.

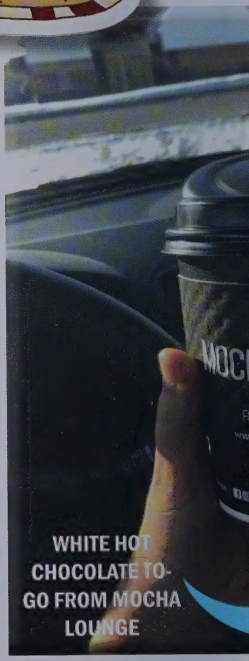
LOCATION.....★★★★

PRICE.....★★★

VARIETY OF ITEMS.....★★★½

AESTHETIC.....★★★½

QUALITY OF FOOD AND COFFEE.....★★★★½



WHITE HOT CHOCOLATE TO-GO FROM MOCHA LOUNGE

spread design by Julia Epling

CINNAMON CARAMEL DOUGHNUT FROM RISE N' ROLL

what's on the menu?

JULIA EPLING
Social Media Manager

COFFEE AND CREPE FROM UNITED COFFEE

united coffee

Similar to Rise'n Roll, United Coffee is also located in a strip mall; however, it's on a less busy road.

They're known for being a locally owned coffee shop, and upon entering, you're immediately greeted with a nice atmosphere. It's decorated with bright colors including yellow chairs, green plants and light brown tables.

"[United Coffee is] more personal than [a place like] Starbucks because it doesn't feel as franchised...it's a really good environment; it feels comfortable," Sydney Little, 11, said.

United Coffee also offers a variety of coffee options and belgian waffles. It's a quiet place where you can study with friends, or just to enjoy some time alone.

"The people who work there are so fun, they also make really good coffee" Sydney Little, 11, said. One of the more popular items on the menu is a hot latte with a design on top.

LOCATION.....★★★

PRICE.....★★★½

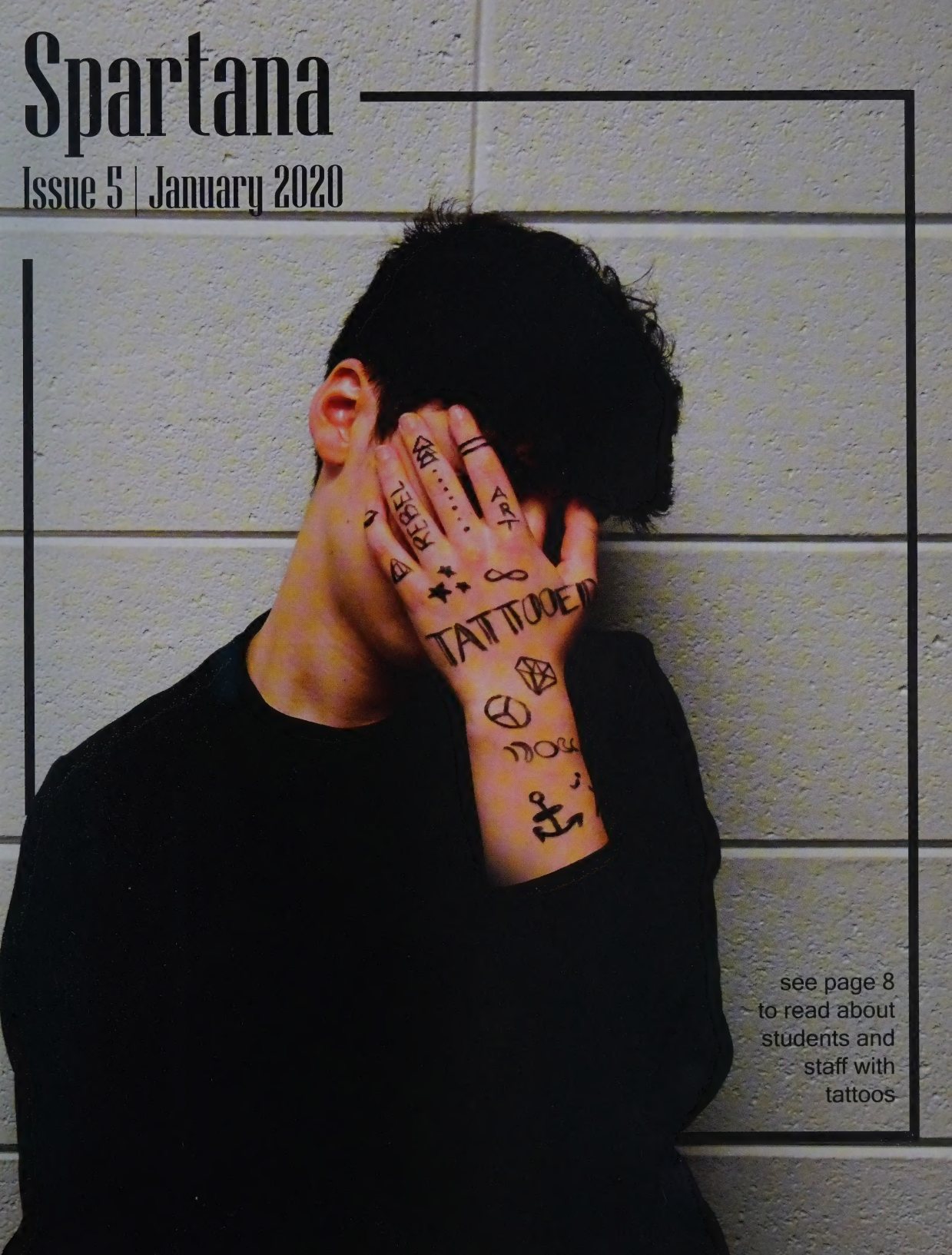
VARIETY OF ITEMS.....★★½

AESTHETIC.....★★★★½

QUALITY OF FOOD AND COFFEE.....★★★★½

Spartana

Issue 5 | January 2020



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staff with
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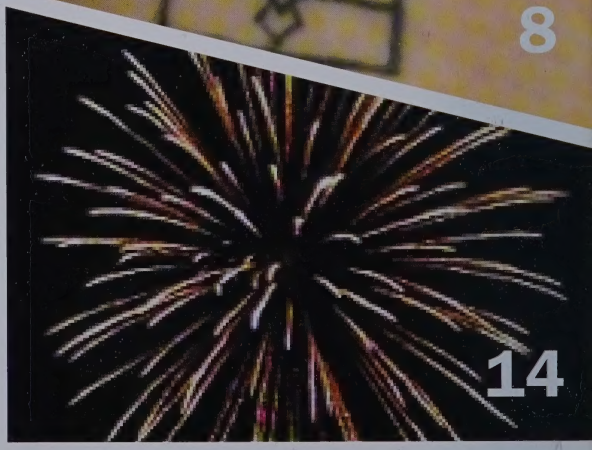

Letter from the Editor

Hello Spartans!

Welcome back! It's been a decade since you last saw the Spartana (I'm sure you haven't heard that joke before), but we're back with great new content covering things you care about. Last semester, a few of our staff members took a trip to Washington, D.C. to improve their journalism skills. While there, they discovered new great ways to improve the Spartana, which will be implemented throughout the semester.

Surely, you've heard friends talking with excitement about the resurgence of the "Roaring Twenties" this decade, and this hype is almost always backed by the timeless testament to the wild decade, The Great Gatsby. In this issue, you'll find a historical comparison of the American lifestyle in 1920 and 2020. We'll also feature a story on Homestead students and teachers who have tattoos, sharing their stories and the stigmas about ink that many face in the workplace. Many students know the AP Literature teacher, Dr. Price, but not many know about the exclusive College Prep course he will be teaching in the coming years. Here, you'll find out from the teacher himself what this course will entail, along with the entry requirements. One tool that many students and their families use is the app Life360, which tracks drivers' whereabouts at all times. Is this useful or just creepy? If you are taking classes with hardcover textbooks, then you'll know all about the scary truth about heavy backpacks. Might your back and shoulders be in danger? Read on to find out. Finally, you'll hear about the unfortunate reality of New Year's resolutions and get to know students who are trying new things this semester.

Speaking of New Year's resolutions, the Spartana staff has made it a goal to boost our Instagram and website throughout December and January. For special stories that don't make it into the issue, check out these platforms at hhsspartana.com and @spartana_news!

We hope that these past weeks have started you off on the right foot for this semester, year, and decade, and that you continue working hard and keeping your head up! Good luck, Spartans!

Sincerely,

Emmalyn Meyer

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1920 VS 2020

JACOB HOUSER
Writer

As we all know, 2019 has left us and we have all begun a new decade. The 2020s are upon us, and for all we know, we've all got very bright futures ahead of us- but that always begs the question if we really know what's going to happen in our futures.

100 years ago, people in the 1920s had just begun a new decade and were in the same position as us- unsure but hopeful about what was to come. And just like us, there were many world events affecting their daily lives just as much as ours. So, why don't we take a look back and see just what it was like for them compared to us?

1920 is called "the Jazz Era" for a reason - and as you could probably infer, it's because Jazz music became extremely popular around that time. Jazz was an inspiration to the younger people residing in America because previous generation frowned upon it. It sparked a new wave of dance and expression, as jazz concerts, dance marathons, and radio concerts soared in popularity."Flapper" clothing grew evermore popular across the country to women, and the common man wore some sort of two-piece or day suit. Apart from the music and fashion, the national culture in the 1920s was also evolving. The Civil War had ended 55 years ago, and African-Americans were still largely migrating from the still-rural South to the bright and new Northern cities, starting movements like the Harlem Renaissance in New York as a celebration of both old and new African culture. Following movie stars, popular musical artists and other public figures had just begun to become a fad. World War I was still in full swing. Despite America's large size, it was not yet a world superpower, and they mostly refused to participate in the war.

When there is a hundred-year gap between two times and places, there will be differences between the aforementioned times and places, and similarities as well. 2020 has lots of popular styles of music rather than one true national movement- lots of people love lots of kinds, whether it be hip-hop, pop, alternative, rock-and-roll, foreign music, or even jazz, just like it was 100 years ago. Concerts are now even more large-scale than what they were 100 years ago, with music festivals being some of the biggest events across the nation every year. The trends of fighting back against criticisms of the past generations through music and other methods remain. Day suits and flapper outfits are largely out of style despite still being well regarded in hindsight as a step toward modern fashion. Modern fashion is much less formal and now aimed towards a mixture of style and comfort and has also become, to some, a form of art, as sneakers, sweatshirts, and more have boomed in public popularity. Segregation has been long-banned and America is more diverse than ever in its history. Public figures, movie stars, musical artists and now online influencers are becoming extremely popular, with lots of them being able to claim several millions of followers apiece. World War I and II have come and gone, but some fear the world is on the verge of a third World War. Largely because of its victory in World War II, America has been a world superpower for nearly a century, and it continues to grow in population.

In the past century, we've taken a bigger leap than anyone could have ever imagined. From barely having electricity in homes to almost entirely electric homes, 221 million more people, devices where you can speak to anyone in the world at any time- the list goes on and on. But, what's more important than the technological advancements are the cultural advancements we have undergone. In 1920, entertainment and leisure were beginning to be prioritized, but now most of modern media is focused around entertaining and informing the masses. Both the Harlem Renaissance and the Civil Rights movement have come and gone. Women's suffrage was finally guaranteed, right off the bat, in February of 1920. Music has evolved just as fast as society itself- from jazz to rock to pop to hip-hop. Despite the constant evolution, it seems that one goal has remained true throughout- said goal being for the newer generation to come up with something to one-up the previous generation. Maybe that's superficial, but it certainly seems like a common theme across these past 100 years.

Homestead's very own possess what could be some of the greatest minds in the country. What we do here- how we perform grade-wise and the path we choose to take- will affect our futures greatly, and that's a given. If these past 100 years brought all of these changes, imagine what the next 100 will be like- and we will be able to experience a lot of it, being so young. Maybe someone in our building will hit it big in Hollywood, or become a multimillionaire, v or something along those lines. No one can see the future, but you can form and shape it as you go along. Have a great year, and an even better decade, Homestead!

design by Emmalyn Meyer

PRESIDENT: Herbert Hoover
NUMBER OF STATES: 48
POPULATION: 106.4 million
PREVIOUS DECADE'S TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS: Telephones, electricity in homes, escalators, and pop-up toasters
ONGOING WORLD EVENTS: New electrical inventions, WWI
STYLE/FASHION TRENDS: Flapper dresses, two-piece suits, bowler hats, trilbies, oxford shoes

Entire World Rejoices in Downfall of Autocratic Militarism
THE DAILY TELEGRAM
VORLD WAR IS OVER
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TAKEN BY BRITISH AS NEWS REACHES ARMY
ALL CROWNED HEADS OF EMPIRE BUSY ABDICATI
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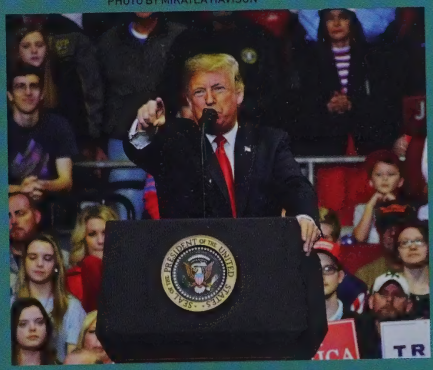
WHEN PEACE CAME
GIVE UP "DIVINI RIGHT
GERMANY IS BRANDED NOW AS BEATEN NATION
HOLLAND'S PROBLEM
ARMED IMPERIALISM COMPLETELY ENDED BY ACCEPTED ARMISTICE

1920
2020

PRESIDENT: Donald Trump
NUMBER OF STATES: 50
POPULATION: 327.2 million
PREVIOUS DECADE'S TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS: iPhones and iPads, driverless cars (albeit prototypes), synthetic cells
ONGOING WORLD EVENTS: Brexit, escalation of world tensions, space exploration
STYLE/FASHION TRENDS: sweatshirts, skinny jeans, sneakers

PHOTO BY MIKAYLA HAVISON



HE TIMES OF INDIA
US kills Iran's top gen & 2nd-most powerful man in drone strike, Ayatollah vows 'harsh revenge'
ASSASSINATED SOON AFTER BAGHDAD LANDING
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BACKPACKS AND BACKACHES

ANNA TOPMILLER
Writer

Could all those heavy textbooks be putting your health at risk? Physical therapists agree that a backpack that is too heavy could be detrimental to your health.

spread design by June Hill

Heavy backpacks and busy hallways have been the epitome of high school halls for decades. Backpacks can have lasting impacts on students' health and can damage muscles and joints. Is it time to eliminate the strain heavy backpacks put on students' backs?

Everyone at Homestead uses a backpack. Most students, especially students in AP classes or classes with lots of necessary material, have overstuffed backpacks. Students load everything that they need for the entire school day on their back, and haul it around from class to class.

"I cannot afford to leave any materials and textbooks at home" Jared Sagan (10) said about his backpack. "It can weigh about 20 or more pounds."

Most students do not use their lockers because there is not enough time to visit them in between classes, so students cannot swap textbooks, gym clothes, and notebooks in and out throughout the day.

"It's a lot of stress, not only physically, but also mentally having to carry everything around with you. The ability to have a locker that is close and easily accessible would make life a lot easier," Jazzmyne Swenson (11) said.

Research from kidshealth.org shows that backpacks that are too heavy can cause the vertebrae in the spine to compress. Students arch their backs and lean forward to counteract being pulled backwards by the heavy backpack. It causes physical changes, as the upper back can tend to look more curved.

Backpacks are still better than messenger bags or simply carrying your books because the weight is more evenly distributed around the large back muscles. However, wearing a backpack on one shoulder (much like using a messenger bag) causes one to lean to the side in an unnatural position.

Misusing the backpack can lead to improper posture and back, neck and shoulder pain that can persist into adulthood.

Backpacks also increase fall risk because the extra weight in the back makes it harder for the student to balance. Massive backpacks can also be tripped over or hit other students. Remember to be aware of how much space you and your backpack to up to avoid injuring others in a crowded hallway

Many classes at Homestead have started using online textbooks; however, there are still some classes that have yet to switch over.

"The school could transition to more online textbooks because a lot of the time we don't use the hard copy and it's annoying to still have to carry that around. After a while carrying all that weight starts to hurt my back," says Rebecca Luckey (11).

"Prevention is key, making sure you try to limit the load of the backpack, that it is fitted properly, a good strengthening routine for the core that is based on planking and not sit ups and crunches and occasional treatment for irritations whether it is muscle work or manipulation can all be beneficial depending on each person's specific needs. If someone has pain, the best thing to do would be to come in for evaluation and make sure we identify the right cause of pain and then take steps to help the patient become independent and able to manage their stress and pain on their own without needing constant treatments," says Dr. Troy Byall of Fort Wayne Spine and Joint.

Josh Butcher, a physical therapist and athletic trainer from Indiana Physical Therapy, says that "Carrying an overly heavy bag on your shoulders most definitely could increase your risk for injury or overstrain on parts of your body. Wearing a heavy backpack for prolonged periods often will cause strain on the neck, back, and shoulders. Muscles may then fatigue and the student will fall into poor posture, which can lead to muscle imbalance or injury."

"Over a period of time this load can cause pain and strain to the muscle and the spine, but with time most tissue should rebound and heal. For most students, carrying a backpack to and from school should not cause a long term problem or issues to their health that will be lasting," Dr. Byall clarifies.

"It is not usually the short term effect of wearing the backpack, but doing so daily can lead to a change in posture or load to the joints over time that can eventually cause lasting pain or dysfunction," says Butcher.

BACKPACKS SHOULD HOLD LESS THAN : 20% OF BODY WEIGHT

HEAVIEST BACKPACK WE WEIGHED: 25 LBS

AVERAGE BACKPACK WEIGHT : 19.7 LBS

To help reduce some of the side effects of using a overcrammed backpack, take a look at this list of tips and guidelines from Harvard Medical School:

- A backpack should not hang more than a few inches below the waist. The lower a backpack hangs, the more weight the shoulders must carry.
- Make sure you use both shoulder straps, firmly tightened. If you use one strap, all the weight is on one side of your back and this leads to lower back pain and muscles spasms.
- The heaviest items should be packed close to the back.
- Don't overload the backpack. You should not carry more than 15%-20% of your weight.

TATTOOS & TABOO

Mikayla Havison
Editor-in-Chief

It's your eighteenth birthday and you are sitting in the bulky, leather chair. It reminds you of the dentist's office, but what is about to ensue will be more painful than the typical checkup. You flip through a book littered with pages of designs that may be engraved into your skin if you let them be. Which tattoo will you get?

Some people view them as a form of artistic expression, while others view them as products of rebellious phases, destined to sag with the passage of time. Whether you believe tattoos to be aesthetic and meaningful or anarchistic and ill-advised, tattoos undeniably play a role in the environment of the school and are important to many students and staff.

For some, tattoos provide the opportunity to tell a story and to commemorate feelings of nostalgia and success.

"I have 2 tattoos," Erin Sheets (12) said. "My first [tattoo] is a mountain range on my ankle. I chose this because I go hiking with my dad every summer so it was a cute memento to that trip."

The telling of stories with tattoos is a popular reason for going under the needle; however, other students choose tattoos based on the pure artistry.

"I have a peony on my right side," student Darien Minx (12) said. "It's on the lower part of my ribs and extends down past my waist. I chose the peony because it's one of my favorite flowers and I thought it was really pretty."

No matter the story or reasons for picking a tattoo, tattoos are a form of expression, which give birth to new stories in relation to the tattoo. This is certainly the case for Kevin Pinkley (12), who selected a unique SpongeBob tattoo.

"My tattoo was originally just a joke I had with some friends," Pinkely said. "I always said I wanted to get a doodlebob tattoo because that episode of SpongeBob had to have been my favorite one that ever aired."

Even when tattoos seem comical, they often still hold a deeper message for students.

"I am an openly expressive person who does not care what people think of me, and I feel like that is summed up pretty well with having doodlebob on my body," Pinkley said. "I also put my own little personal spin on it by having the words 'Abite Molesti!' above him, which is Latin for 'Go away pests!'."

Although most students with tattoos view them as a form of art, there is certainly a stigma that surrounds the inking of bodies.

"Society as a whole is split on the opinion of tattoos," Pinkley said. "Some like them, others don't. I have been questioned about my decision to get a tattoo because people think that they dehumanize the body. I always respond by saying, 'Why do you care what I do with my body? I mean, after all, you don't have to live with it.'"

Despite the negativity that those with tattoos sometimes face, it is undeniable that for most, the younger generation is much more open to the concept of tattoos.

"The younger generations have less stigma and are more accepting of being able to look past them, and as more younger people rise to positions of power within companies, the idea that tattoos are unprofessional is dwindling," Sheets said. "Older people are pretty hard to sway in terms of getting rid of a previous mindset, so while they are still in the workforce there will always be discrimination."

Students with tattoos hope that in the future, the stigma towards tattoos will decrease.

"I think a general view is that tattoos are a more rebellious thing," Minx said. "I don't think that perception is correct because for me it's a creative and interesting way to express myself."

Students are not the only ones at the school to get tattoos.

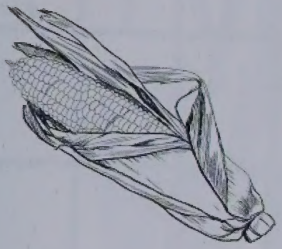
"Most of [my tattoos] are expressions of my faith or to honor my family," Dominic Manco, art teacher, said.

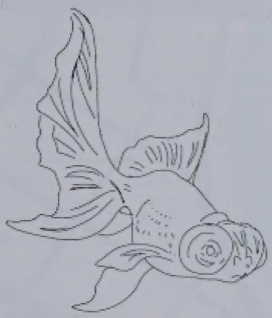
Like students, Manco has observed similar changes in society's perception of tattoos.

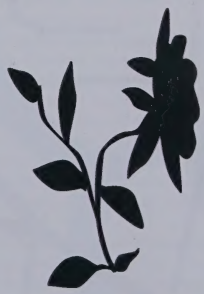
"I think society is becoming more accepting of tattoos in general," Manco said. "There are still some who look down on them or don't appreciate the art or significance of them, and in some cases that is probably warranted, given all of the bad tattoos that have been done over the years. But most licensed, serious tattoo artists I've seen and known practice it as a serious art or craft and have tried their best to create beautiful pieces that enhance a person's life and appearance, not diminish them."

design by Claire Elliott

IDEAS







spread design by June Hill

YOU'RE BEING WATCHED

Life 360 is a tracking app used by many parents to ensure their children's saftey, but is it trustworthy?

ELYSSA HUFF
Writer

What do Instagram, Snapchat and the weather app have in common? They all know exactly where you are. It seems as though location has become a widely-used tool in the age of technology, as reflected in the invention of Snap Map and Instagram's Geolocation. None of these apps have quite the wide-range of gadgets and gizmos, however, of Life360, a tracking app primarily used by parents to know their children's location.

Life360 first came about on Android in 2008 and IOS in 2010 as a sort of social network for families. Its creators, Chris Hulls and Alex Haro, have received $90 million in funding since the app's launch, including, famously, funding from both Facebook and Google. The app's primary goal is to allow parents to keep tabs on their children, which, depending on one's view, is either a safety precaution, or an overreach of surveillance. Perhaps it could be both.

"Life360 is a mobile app where people can see others' locations," Ethan Ledbetter (12) said. "I just have the most basic version, so it just says where the phone is. If you have the subscription, though, it will tell you how fast people are going in their cars and, like, the history of where people have been."

Because of the premium part of the app, it becomes apparent that Life360 is making a significant amount of money: in December 2019 alone, the app made over $2 million. Considering that the "Plus" package is $2.99 a month and the "Driver Protect" package is $7.99, this figure seems entirely feasible. But are people actually getting their money's worth?

"My family and I actually ended up getting rid of the app," Jewelia Brindel (11) said. "When I was riding the bus, it used to go past the entrance of my neighborhood, and the app would say that I was home already. It wasn't always the most accurate app."

With any sort of tracking app, there are almost always security concerns to go with it. People express their discomfort and having all of their information being on one app at any given time.

"I wasn't ever super comfortable with using it, because then my location's out there on my phone, and there are so many different ways that someone could potentially have access to it," Brindel said. "I don't usually let anything other than my weather app have access to my location."

Ostensibly, the app is intended for parental use, and parents frequently use it to ensure the safety of their children.

"My mom used it a lot, especially when my sister had a lot of extra-curriculars and she would get rides from other people, and my mom would check just to make sure that she was safe and got where she was supposed to be okay," Brindel said.

The use of the app, however, can complicate relationships with parents, especially if the app's use corresponds with a lack of trust or a desire to control a child's whereabouts. According to the Washington Post, the extensive use of tracking apps can even be a form of emotional abuse, especially if it extends micromanaging that occurred in childhood.

"I don't think that parents are justified with tracking their kids," Ledbetter said. "It's an invasion of privacy, not a safety issue. I haven't given my mom a reason to distrust me, so I kind of resent the fact that she doesn't trust me so much that she resorts to using an app to track my location."

However, the app can also be used outside of parental relationships. Some use it with their friends, as a way to see their location.

"Right now, I have about eight people on my Life360. Tracking can be nice for friends because you know when they're at a place you might want to go to, and it's a good way to make quick plans," Sophia Barton (11) said. "For sharing your location, it's okay depending on who you're sharing it with. Only share it with friends you trust and for the right reasons!" Barton said. "You never know what could happen."

Some, however, are uncomfortable with the app and its uses, only using it when absolutely necessary or required by their parents.

"I feel like there are a lot of factors that make it really creepy, especially with friends," Madeleine Knecht (11) said. "If someone asked me for me location other than my mom or my dad, I would refuse because they don't need it."

All in all, it appears that Life360 has a complex legacy among teens and young adults. Regardless of one's feelings toward it, it represents a notable increase in tracking and location apps and technology. With any sort of tracking app, it is always important to stay safe and not overshare your location.

Price's Prep Class

Homestead is offering a new class for sophomores and juniors to better prepare for college.

MATTHEW QUINTOS
Online Editor

For the first time in the school's history, Homestead will be introducing a class dedicated solely to aiding students interested in applying to highly selective institutions. This course will be available on an invitation basis to select sophomores and juniors the next academic school year.

"We want to help our kids and their families make the best decisions for themselves and put them themselves in the position to go to the school of their choice or obtain scholarships they would not have been able to compete for otherwise," Park Ginder, principal, said.

The prerequisites of this course speak to the high academic quality of students entering it. Sophomores are required to have taken Honors Algebra II, AP World History and Honors 9 English. Juniors are required to have taken Precalculus/Trigonometry and Honors 10 English.

"The students that this class has been marketed towards have put themselves in a position to be challenged academically by taking upper level classes and by doing very well in those classes," Ginder said. "We want to help them take that next step."

The course is structured so that sophomores will enroll in the class during their spring semester and juniors will enroll in the course during their fall semester. Therefore, current sophomores who successfully complete their spring semester will be able to enroll in a second semester of instruction in the fall of their junior year. The course will count as an elective credit for all diplomas.

"I have always tried my best to take the most challenging courses available, as I know I would like to attend a competitive university. This class seemed like a great opportunity to help me get there," Ellie Villaruz (10), a student enrolled in the class, said.

The course description states that "Students will receive targeted instruction to strengthen their foundations in critical reading, writing, and mathematics sections of college admission and placement exams". Simply put, the course is mainly centered around ensuring students can perform well on important exams necessary for successful applications to selective universities.

"One of the ways that the vast majority of people benefit from taking the PSAT is that it can expose strengths and weaknesses for the SAT," David Price said.

Students are also hopeful that this course can improve their scores on standardized tests.

"I think this class will be very helpful in improving my SAT score. I think it will also help me increase my PSAT score and qualify for national merit," Ellie Villaruz (10) said.

Homestead has enjoyed considerable success in the realm of college admissions. Last year, Homestead sent two students to Harvard University. In the past two years, students have gained admission to USC, Dartmouth, Yale, Notre Dame, Boston College, Cornell, Emory and Boston University, among others. Admission to these schools is a laudable accomplishment and a testament to their academic dedication.

"We want to help these kids, if that is where their goals are, to be able to get to those places," Ginder said.

Additionally, students could use this class to better position themselves for larger scholarship packages from state schools. There are many Homestead students who turn down selective institutions in favor of state schools with better scholarship packages. Some of these students attend Purdue or Indiana University on full ride scholarships, spending zero dollars on their college education.

"Our kids are making better economic decisions because they are seeing the value of a degree, not so much the title on the degree. Last year, we had three kids who had either an Ivy League opportunity or a truly highly selective university and they decided to stay in town because they received full scholarships," Ginder said.

Dr. Price, the course's instructor, views this class as an excellent way to prepare students for college entrance exams.

"The idea is to continue the preparation. The first year you take the PSAT, it does not really count for anything. The second year really counts in terms of National Merit potential. The vast majority of us, when I was a student, did not care about it. I even see that today and that is not a very good attitude to have towards the test. If you are forced to take it, take the opportunity to do well on it," Price said.

Dr. Price recognizes the importance that colleges and universities put on college entrance exams. This class will allow students to begin to prepare earlier for these exams.

"The course serves two purposes. One, boost the scores of people on the PSAT and two, in a broader context, prepare students for the SAT, which a lot of colleges take very seriously. You can really set yourself up to be noticed by colleges and universities, and that is the whole point (of the class)," Price said.

While test preparation may be mundane for some, this class will help students reach their future goals; is that not a fair price to pay?

design by Julia Epling

REPLAY 2010s

SPARTANA MUSIC

Top Songs of the Decade

JULIA EPLING
Writer and Designer

Take a look at some of the most popular songs from the decade according to the Billboard Decade-End Hot 100 Charts for the 2010s.

'10s

Play Shuffle

✓ DOWNLOADED

1 Uptown Funk
Mark Ronson ft. Bruno Mars

2 Party Rock Anthem
LMFAO ft Lauren Bennett & GoonRock

3 Shape Of You
Ed Sheeran

4 Closer
The Chainsmokers ft Halsey

5 Girls Like You
Maroon 5 ft Cardi B

6 We Found Love
Rihanna ft Calvin Harris

7 Old Town Road
Lil Nas X ft Billy Ray Cyrus

8 Somebody That I Used To Know
Gotye ft Kimbra

In One Year, Out the Other

A guide to setting long-lasting goals for 2020

Hafsa Ibrahim
Writer

With the new decade beginning, it is common to set goals for the New Year. The most common resolutions, according to Forbes, are to lose weight, to eat more healthily and to exercise more frequently. Unfortunately, the phrase "New Year, New Me" is not always true. Statistically, a whopping 80% of people fail to achieve their New Year's Resolutions, most losing their motivation by mid-February. This means that most people only stay committed to their intentions for a month and a half.

"It seems like a lot of people make resolutions but never end up accomplishing them, especially the ones who set fitness-related ones," Sam Spatt (10) said.

Despite the disappointing statistics, there are some who truly set and reach their New Year's goals. So, if you have set a goal for yourself for the new decade and are on your way to accomplish it, congratulations.

"I have attempted to accomplish my goals and I've been doing pretty well with keeping up with them," Leena Hussain (11) noted. "I want to work on managing my stress, taking time to find new hobbies, and to stay motivated during the school year."

However, the vast majority of people who do not reach their desired results fail to recognize what it is that they did wrong, and do not reflect on a better way to see their goal through. Not planning, integrating the behavior into their lives, having enough support to accomplish the specified goal or tracking progress bit by bit sets people up for unavoidable failure.

According to James Clear, the author of Atomic Habits, it takes two to eight months to establish a new habit. Many people cannot follow through because they don't take an approach that is realistic. If you were asked to pick which resolution is more sensible - to lose 100 pounds, or to eliminate unhealthy foods such as sugar from the diet, you would most likely say that limited one's sugar consumption is a much more attainable and reasonable strategy to being healthier.

Another important step to setting and maintaining a target goal is to plan it well. Going back to the example with changing diet habits, you will need to consider the steps you are going to take in order to ensure a lasting adjustment can be made. Figuring out what works for you personally and applying it to a structured and specific route of action is the way to go.

Life consists primarily of learned habits. If your New Year's resolution was to get rid of a bad habit, then replacing the not-so-good habit with a better one is necessary. Another helpful tool to being successful with your goals is to consciously avoid things that trigger relapse. Small alterations in behavior will prove beneficial in the long run.

"It's about focusing on it. If you aren't focused on accomplished your resolution, then you won't end up following through. It's just that simple," Max Keeser (10) said.

It is extremely important when making changes to one's life to have a stable support system. Other than paid coaches, trainers, and assistants, often the best helpers come from close friends and family who are willing to put in the effort to keep you accountable and to help you fulfill your goals.

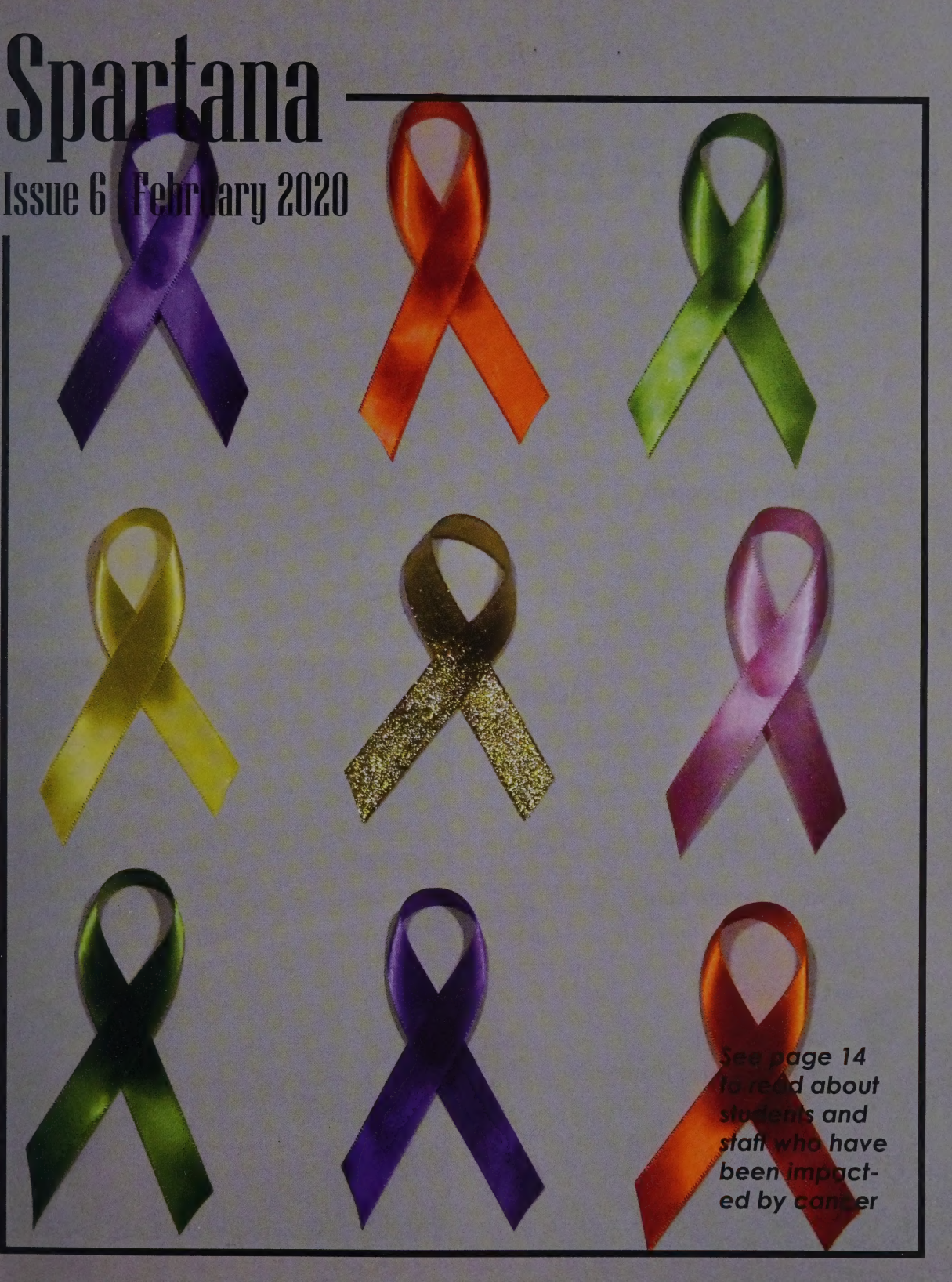
"I think some people do achieve their goals if they try hard enough to get where they want to be. If you don't try, then you won't get anywhere," Olivia Adams (9) said.

By following these simple steps, you can drastically change the course of your own life for the better. Push through and see it to the end, you won't regret it.

design by Claire Elliott

Spartana

Issue 6 | February 2020



See page 14 to read about students and staff who have been impacted by cancer

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Why do leap years exist?

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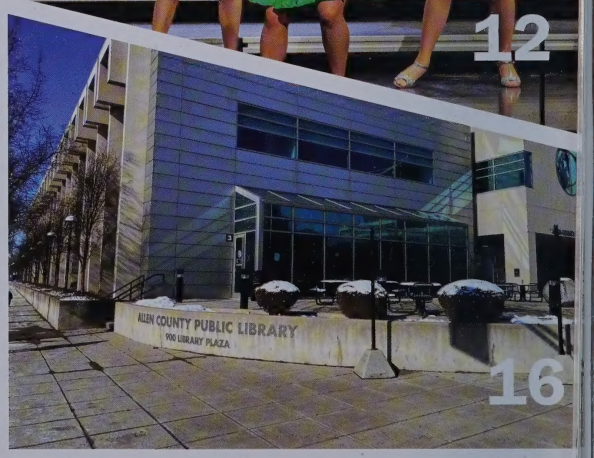

Letter from the Editor

Hello Spartans!

One of the most rewarding parts of journalism is having the opportunity to write about things in the world that impact you and this issue, my personal goal was to do that.

Just last year, my mom was diagnosed with breast cancer, something which has greatly changed my life. I have had older relatives die in the past from cancer, but having someone so close to me get diagnosed was an experience I could never have imagined. Fortunately for myself and my family, my mom is now cancer free, but the measures it took to get there were not easy. During my experience, I spoke very little about my mom's cancer, but looking back I wish I had.

Cancer is not something we often talk about, and when we do, it gets sugar coated with unrealistic media that often turns the disease into a romance story or beautiful tragedy. For this issue of the Spartana, I wanted to discuss the reality of cancer, interviewing people who have really experienced cancer's effect. From my story, I hope you take away not only the terrifying nature of cancer, but also the importance of supporting one another in difficult times.

If you have a story about an experience with cancer or really any experience that has greatly changed you, feel free to reach out to the Spartana at our email address. Whether you have a story idea, want to write something, have a comment/concern, or are interested in joining the Spartana, we love to hear from you!

Of course, there is also other amazing content in this issue that I hope you enjoy. From the J-Lists tips on touring colleges to Mr. Beer's class project, the Spartana staff has worked hard this issue to cover a variety of events pertaining to you.

Sincerely,

Mikayla Havison

Editor-In-Chief

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Homestead High School

COLLEGE *and* CAREER FAIR

For answers to questions about life after high school…

Monday, March 9, 2020
6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

at

HOMESTEAD HIGH SCHOOL
4310 Homestead Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46814

***All** area high school students and/or their parents are invited to attend!*

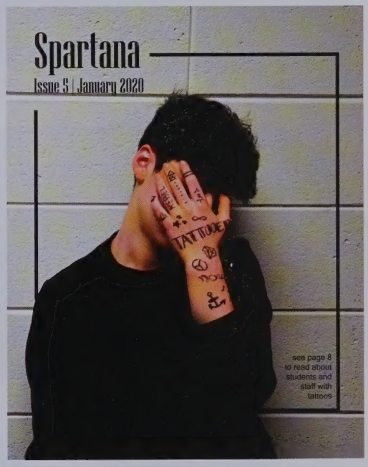
We anticipate over 90 four-year universities, two-year colleges, and vocational schools located throughout the United States to be in attendance. In addition, there will be representatives from various careers, the Armed Services, and financial institutions participating.
The program is open to the public.

There is no admission charge.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

Sign up to join the Spartana or Retrospect staff with your counselor

You'll be able to work with friends, learn how to design, become an important part of the school and most importantly, have fun!



ALSO...

Don't forget to buy your 2019-2020 yearbook at yearbooksforever.com if you didn't do so at registration

For any questions contact Lbrehm@sacs.k12.in.us

the J List
College Visit Tips

written by
JUNE HILL
designed by June Hill

As someone who spends a lot of time worrying about the future, I am obviously a great person to take college advice from. Recently, I began going on college visits (I saw Columbia College, Loyola, and Northwestern in Chicago over the weekend of February 7th) because I hear that's what us juniors are supposed to be doing, and already I think I have learned a few things that I would like to share with my millions of dedicated readers. If you are also going on college tours or will start going on them soon, this J List is for you.

One

Choosing colleges. Google says there are approximately 5,300 colleges in the U.S, and we only have six college visit days, three each for Junior and Senior year. So how do you break it down? Make a spreadsheet. For each school on my list, I have the average GPA, SAT scores, student body size, acceptance rate and the region of the country. This has been helping me keep everything organized.

Two

Take notes. Or least have your mom take notes - that's what mine did for me. There will most likely be a tour guide rapid-fire spewing information at you about how magical and life-changing the school's traditions are, but then they will start talking about something important like financial aid or required classes, so make sure you are paying attention and taking notes.

Three

Ask Questions. I should have asked more questions. I had questions, but just didn't want to be a bother. BUT THAT'S WHY YOU ARE ON A COLLEGE VISIT. Your tour guide knows everything there is to know about the school, so if you have any questions to ask just shout 'em out! Or go up to the guide at the end of the tour if you don't want to talk over everyone else.

Four

Take pictures. Maybe you have a better memory than me, but I was worried about mixing up the schools in my head, so I took lots of pictures. Yes, there are photos online, but it's nice to have your own details from your visit, marking specific things you noticed and enjoyed.

Five

Obviously, dress acording to the weather. You will be outside for most, if not all, of the visit, so make sure you're comfortable. I kept warm in the windy streets of Chicago, but my error came with my choice of footwear. Stupidly, I decided to pack one pair of shoes, a pair that I had been meaning to break in for a while. So, after walking an average of 18,000 steps for 2 days straight, my feet were practically rubbed raw from the new shoes. Note to self: don't do that again.

Six

The school is important but, when you go on a visit take time to explore the city or town the school is situated in. You are going to be there for four+ years so you had better like the area. Chicago is obviously a big city and I had been there multiple times before my college visits, but I made sure to explore what Evanston (Northwestern) and the area around Loyola had to offer.

1. Loyola's Information Commons building is situated right on Lake Michigan and gets a stunning view of the sunrise.
2. The new dorms at Colombia are spacious for downtown Chicago living.
3. Loyola holds church service at the Madonna Della Strada chapel.
4. I joined a Chinese New Year parade at Centennial park while I was in Chicago. Being exposed to more diversity and culture is something I want out of my college experience.
5. I got a peek inside the Chronicle newsroom on my visit to Colombia.
6. Northwestern has a beautiful campus full of interesting old and new buildings.

Seven

Schedule tours together. If you are interested in a specific city, I recommend seeing multiple schools there. I saw three colleges within 48 hours. It was nice to knock out three schools at once. Just make sure you give yourself enough time to get from school to school and maybe grab a bite between visits. Walking makes me hungry.

Eight

If you are interested in schools at opposite ends of the country, schedule your visits on long weekends and over spring break to stretch those six days as far as possible. I, for example, am heading northeast to visit Emmerson College, Syracuse University and a few others over spring break. If you don't have time to visit every college on your list, make sure you see a big school, a small school, a rural school and an urban school just so you can get a feel for what other schools with similar specs would be like.

Love, Actually?

written by
ELYSSA HUFF
designed by JULIA EPLING

Romance novels and movies have affected our culture.

It's the season of love as Valentine's Day permeates the atmosphere. But for some people, Valentine's Day and its festivities never seem to end.

I'm talking, of course, about romance novels and romantic comedies, and the way that those mediums seem to stick around all year long.

Romance novels and rom-coms are, and have always been, huge. Even Emma Bovary, a 19th century literary heroine, fell under their sway when she read romance novels as a child, eventually impacting her view of the world and affecting her character arc in ways that she could not have imagined.

Now, the influence of romance novels appears even more profound: romance novels account for over 50 percent of mass market fiction sold in the United States, and more than a third of all fiction sold in the United States each year is romance fiction.

With over two thousand titles being published each year, as of 2004, it creates a $1.2 billion market.

And let's not leave out rom-coms, either -, the seemingly endless stream of cheesy-looking movies that we all see on our Netflix home pages.

In 2018, they made $241 million at the box office and continue to grow in profits. At this point, it's time to face the facts: love sells, and it sells a lot.

Opinions surrounding these mediums are somewhat polarized. Some people really love romance novels and romcoms and actively enjoy spending their time with them.

"I absolutely love (romance novels and rom-coms). They're my favorite type of movie and one of my favorite style of novels," Mackenzie Lee (11) said.

Others, however, find them difficult to particularly like or appreciate.

"I understand why people like them, but they're definitely not for me," Miranda Bartz (12) said. "I think a lot of people enjoy them because people crave being in love themselves, so they find entertainment in others' love stories."

A lot of the discussion surrounding romance novels concerns its depiction of love, including whether or not it is truly mature.

"Certain romances tackle love in a mature way. Wuthering Heights or Madame Bovary might portray the inevitable failures of love and its struggles," Skyler Neuhaus (11) said.

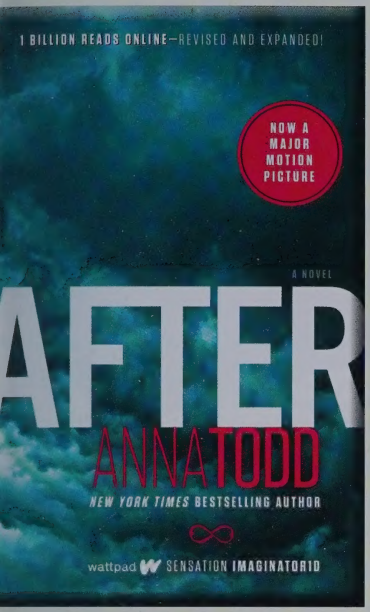
"Things like the Selection series might convey a more immature view of love, because people also like to read unrealistic depictions of love."

Some people, however, fully defend romance novels and rom-coms and their depictions of love.

"I don't think (they present an immature view of love)," Lee said. "What's the harm in depicting someone who is trying to find someone who loves you the way you've always wanted to be loved? I think people almost always relate to the characters in some way, either that they've been hurt like they have or they just want love like the characters."

Regardless of their portrayals of love, it cannot be denied that these titles are often marketed to teenagers.

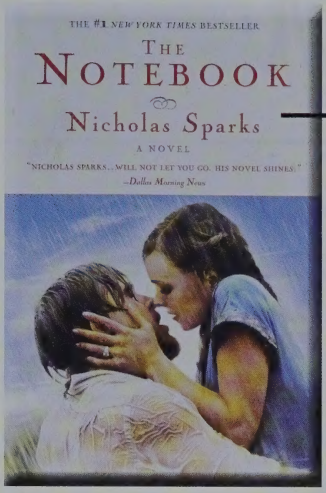
"They get actors that most people of those ages know the most usually. This is probably because teenagers and young adults are the ones who can relate to these movies the most. When you're at that age, you're usually trying to find a boyfriend or girlfriend, or someone you can have a relationship with," Lee said.



After

ANNA TODD

A young and naive college freshman falls for the local bad boy, but complications ensue.


THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
THE NOTEBOOK
Nicholas Sparks
A NOVEL
"NICHOLAS SPARKS...WILL NOT LET YOU GO. HIS NOVEL SHINES."
—Dallas Morning News

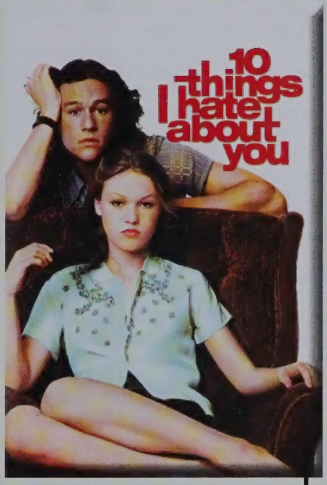
The Notebook

NICHOLAS SPARKS

When Nick comes back from serving in World War II, his love rekindles with an already married Allie.

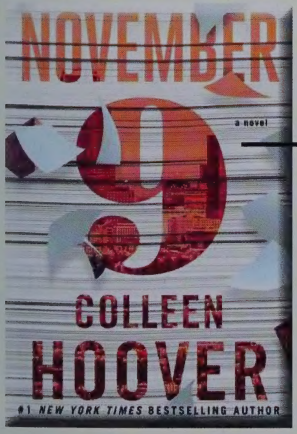
Love Actually

An anthology of romance stories coagulate to form a timeless romantic class.



10 Things I Hate About You

Unfortunately for Bianca Stratford, she can't date anyone until her older sister has had a boyfriend; however, when Bianca meets Patrick she tries to test the rules.



November 9

COLLEEN HOOVER

A young woman and man meet every year on November ninth, but she has no idea the secrets he's hiding.

Inside the Journal

A peek inside some of the bullet journals at Homestead, and why you should start one.

written by
JUNE HILL
Designed by June Hill

Life can be messy, and sometimes planners, Google Calendar and mental notes just don't cut it. That's why bullet journaling, an increasingly popular trend among the youth of today, is used as a way to keep everything - from homework and orthodontist appointments to sleep trackers and sudden sparks of inspiration - organized and all in one place.

Allison Lantz (10) began her journal journey in 2019. Her notebook, a bright orange one from Amazon decorated with washi tape and the phrase "i'm outta here" written in cursive, helps her keep track of memories, weekly goals and books she has read. Like many people with a bullet journal, Lantz was inspired by creators on Youtube when she began hers.

"(I saw people like) Amanda Rach Lee doing it and I just thought 'oh, that looks so cool' so I just wanted to start one myself," Lantz said.

Youtube is a great place to start for aspiring bullet journalers as there are literally thousands of videos detailing all different ways to build your notebook. Pinterest is also a wealth of ideas, but one of the pros to bullet journaling is that you don't have to follow an exact template. Lantz, who has artistic tendencies, appreciates how her journal allows her to express creative energy.

"Every single month you get to draw out exactly what you want and make it look super cute and pretty," Lantz remarked.

This personalization aspect of bullet journaling is freeing to many people who keep them. Minseo Kim (10) felt like she was struggling to keep up with last school year, and thought the boring pre-set planners she picked up at the store didn't suit her needs. To remedy this, she started bullet journaling as a way to build exactly what she wanted and to get her back on top.

"I love that you get to be really creative, like the possibilities are endless and there is nothing you can't do," said Kim. "I wish I would see more people doing it because it's such a helpful tool. It unleashes your creativity and individuality!"

Karina Tessier (11) also felt like she needed a new way to stay organized, and bullet journaling was the perfect avenue to combine that with her passion for art. She has had a bullet journal for two years now, and is well into her second notebook. Tessier has bullet journaling down to a science, knowing exactly when and for how long she needs to work on it in order to keep up.

"[I work on it] 15 minutes daily maybe, and if you do a little every class period then it doesn't take long at all," Tessier said.

Starting a bullet journal can be daunting. You might think you are not creative enough or would be too busy to work on it, but those excuses should not keep you from creating one, especially if you need to manage your time better. However, bullet journaling can be time consuming, especially if you are a bit of a perfectionist. It takes Kim anywhere from 10 minutes to an hour to fully design a page.

"(Sometimes) it overwhelms me with freedom, but as long as I get some kind of foundation or inspiration I'm okay," Kim said.

And even the pros have to take a break sometimes. Take it from Lantz who after working on her journal for a year, stopped in mid January.

"I even made my 2020 start up for the year page but I just really haven't been keeping up with it. When you make things a priority they become less fun and it kind of becomes a chore," Lantz said. "I'm just waiting until I want to do it again."

Lantz is sure her bullet journaling days are far from over, and knowing that it doesn't have to be perfect is comforting. Lantz tends to freehand her designs.

"I'm not very specific about how I organize it, (and) you can make it super detailed or as minimalistic as you want," Lantz said.

And, surprisingly, you don't really need any artistic talent to have a bullet journal.

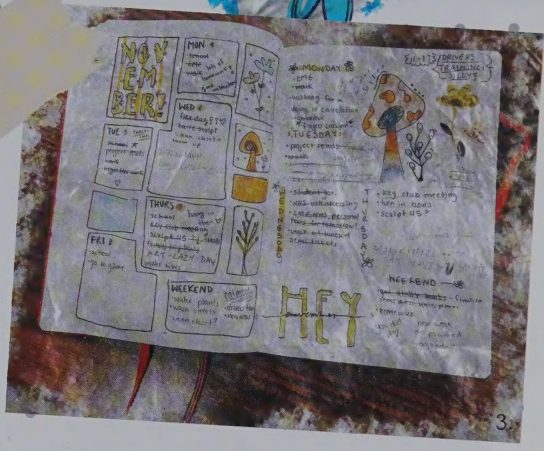
"You definitely should have an artsy interest, but you don't have to be good at it. You just have to want to do something creative, but other than that I think anyone can do one," Tessier said.

Kim says she is not a creative person, but to make up for her lack of artistic ability, her journal is full of stickers and geometric designs that she made with the help of a ruler. Her journal also features gorgeous, looping calligraphy, which she taught herself how to do using YouTube.

Lantz, Kim, and Tessier all have preferred drawing utensils that suit their specific needs. Where Lants loves her watercolor pens and thin black Sharpies, Tessier is devoted to her Tombow markers, which explode out of her large pencil case as she unzips it. Kim uses the pigma micron fineliners, and as mentioned, plenty of adorable stickers. However, you don't need any fancy pens. Even pencils and any old marker would do the trick.

Bullet journaling is a great way for people to personalize and organize their planners, and if you are looking for a way to up your organization game, bullet journaling is the way to go. Working on a journal is satisfying but the final result is always the best part.

"It's really calming and you know you will just be able to like go through it and mark everything off your little checklist," Tessier said. "It's something I'm never going to throw away because it's so pretty!"

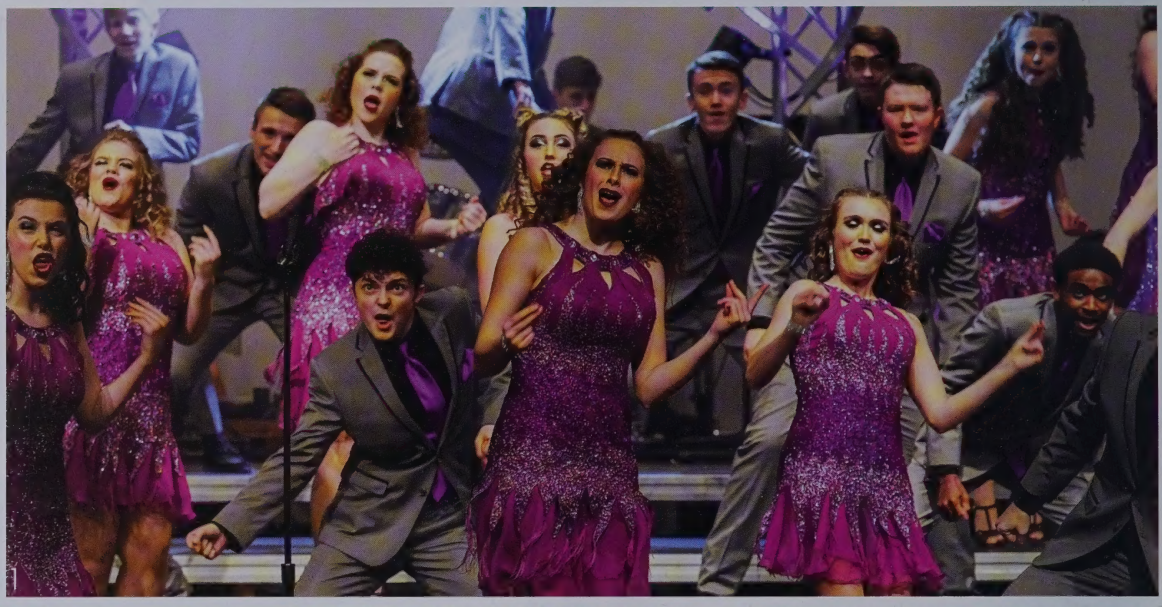


1. Small details from a collage in Tessier's journal.
2. Tessier's many pens.
3. The November page from Lantz's journal.
4. Kim's journal features calligraphy and stickers.
5. Lantz bought her journal from Amazon and then decorated it.
6. Tessier's Journal is loud, but organized.

SHOWING OFF

It's competition season and the Homestead show choirs are performing their hearts out on stage.

written by
ANNA TOPMILLER
designed by
Anna Topmiller



If you love singing, dancing and being part of a group that allows you to express yourself through the performing arts, then you are probably already part of one of Homestead's show choirs.

"When I first joined show choir last year, I didn't really know what to expect, but after being in it for a while, I really grew to love how we are all a big family! I love how everyone is just so supportive of each other. I wish I joined show choir sooner because it is such a great experience," said Maddison Zitlaw (11).

Many people enjoy the feeling of home and community that show choir can provide them with.

"Group chemistry: there's always a moment in our season where our group just clicks and it's an amazing feeling once we hit that," said Mackenzie Lee (11).

At Homestead, there are two award winning show choirs, Elite and Class Royale, and a decorated backup band, Anonymous Blue.

"We have won best band for each of our two competitions so far," said Cutter Mask (12).

The show choirs work hard all through the fall semester so that they can hit the ground running when competition season picks up in the winter.

"So far, the season has been great for Elite. We won grand champion at our first competition with best vocal and best choreography. We got second place at our second competition with best vocals," said Mekayla Wheeler (10).

The Homestead Show Choirs are hard at work to do well in the throes of competition season. The huge time commitment requires tons of passion and dedication from each person in the Elite, Class Royale, and Anonymous Blue.

"My least favorite part would be the early mornings," said Wheeler.

Sometimes competition days can be long, so a positive attitude is a must.

"My favorite part if being in show choir is making memories during competition season and getting to know everyone! Sometimes the competition days get a little long and tiring after a while, but sometimes that makes it more fun because everyone acts funny," said Zitlaw.

The co-curricular class is hugely popular and successful. This means that people in the show choirs and Anonymous Blue sacrifice a class period that they could be using as a study hall or another class for their passion. People in the freshman class to seniors use Elite, Class Royale, or Anonymous Blue are able to express themselves through music and find something that they are passionate about and enjoy.

"I love when we get to competition season and we finally get to compete after months of hard work and it has all paid off. I get to go onstage and perform and do something I absolutely love doing with an amazing group of people," said Lee.

"Being in Anonymous Blue, the show choir backup band, the best part is getting to play some rad tunes with other really talented musi-

cians," said Mask.

If you are thinking about and/or wanting to join show choir, get out to auditions this spring! Auditions for the 2020-2021 seasons of Elite and Class Royale will be held on Wednesday, March 25. They are being held in the choir room and start at 3:00 pm. Visit the Homestead show choirs website at https://www.homesteadshowchoirs.com/ for more information. Anonymous Blue auditions for 2020-2021 will be held during the fall or winter of next school year.

"For those wanting to carry on the legacy, make sure you practice the music - it's pretty difficult. Go in with an open mind. I was originally auditioning for the drum set, but instead of getting booted out, I got to play the vibraphone and stay in with the group," said Mask.

Make sure to see Elite, Class Royale, and Anonymous Blue this competition season and support the Spartans in the performing arts and all their hard work.

"I highly recommend seeing Class Royale and Elite's shows this year because they're probably my favorite shows we've done!" said Lee.

1. Class Royale performs a song during their show at Northrop.
2. Another group number by Class Royale at the Northrop showcase.
3. Anonymous Blue waits on the stairs before they're are set to perform.
4. Kathleen Simunek, Bethany Villaruz and Bailey McDonald perform a trio song.
5. Ava Beauchamp shines as she sings a solo.

PHOTOS BY RINGO SANTIAGO

BEHIND THE CANCER

written by
MIKAYLA HAVISON
designed by Mikayla Havison

Cancer. It is a terrifying word that can change someone's life forever. A word that is so heart wrenching that people often push it to the side and pretend that it could never truly affect them; however, the sad reality is that cancer already impacts everyone. Not in the sense that everyone has cancer, but in the sense that most people will watch someone or themselves struggle with it in their lifetime.

At Homestead, cancer is a reality that students and staff already have to face. From students and staff battling the illness, to watching loved ones go through the same battles, cancer is a discussion that cannot be avoided.

In fact, three years ago, Homestead's principal, Park Ginder was diagnosed with a form of cancer and what most do not know is that he still faces the illness every day.

"I have what is called Chronic lymphocytic leukemia and the chronic means that it will never go away," Ginder said. "When I was diagnosed a little more than three years ago, I was really uncomfortable and incredibly tired. I could barely stay awake and I had swollen up. I couldn't button my shirt or put my arms down because I was so swollen. I was in a lot of discomfort."

"ANY TIME SOMEONE USES THE WORD CANCER, IT MAKES PEOPLE AFRAID."
-PARK GINDER, PRINCIPAL

At the beginning of his diagnosis. Ginder was incredibly tired, which made work and life difficult for him. People often do not realize the sheer exhaustion that cancer brings to those who suffer from it.

"When I was really sick, Mr. Updegrove brought in a twin bed for me and I would take naps during the school day," Ginder said. "I've never been so tired in my life. I don't know how to explain it, but it felt like there was a car on my back."

Those like assistant principal, Joe Updegrove were crucial to helping Ginder get through a difficult time.

"I had ten students from Homestead High School come out and do yard work at my house because they knew I was sick," Ginder said. "That kind of thing is very humbling and was a huge blessing for me and I really appreciated it."

Although cancer is often painful and devastating, it undeniably brings people together. For Ginder, this was made prevalent to the love of his family and friends, people he thinks are important for every person battling the illness to have.

"I knew (my wife) was hurt and I knew she was scared, but she did not become clingy," Ginder said. "You have to give space and let people process, but you have to make yourself available to them for anything."

For Ginder, his cancer will never go away; however, now that his CLL is manageable, it make him reflect more on the experiences of others who are not as fortunate in their type of cancer.

"Any time someone uses the word cancer, it makes people afraid," Ginder said. "What I have told everybody is that CLL is like the Kmart, blue light special of all cancers. It's not what you want, but if you got to have it, you may as well have CLL."

"WATCHING MY MOM IN THE HOSPITAL ROOM, SITTING NEXT TO ME WHILE I WAS GETTING CHEMO, KNOWING THAT THESE COULD BE THE LAST FEW MONTHS THAT SHE HAD WITH ME. SHE TRIED TO HIDE IT, BUT SHE JUST REALLY COULDN'T."
-CORA WALROND, STUDENT

Adults at Homestead are not the only one who have had experiences with cancer. Only one out of every 330 people will develop cancer before the age of 19, but with a student body of 2400 students, it is almost inevitable that at least a few students will have to experience the suffering associated with the disease.

"There are a lot of diagnoses that are worse than mine," Ginder said. "We have lost students in the last couple years from cancer and their diagnosis are worse than mine"

One student at Homestead who has already experienced the impact of cancer in her life is Cora Walrond (11), a swimmer and survivor of stage four Hodgkins lymphoma.

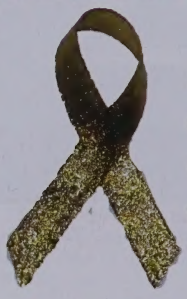
"Every time I went to a doctor they would just tell me I have a cold or a virus," Walrond said. "They would keep giving me more antibiotics and then I went to an allergist, but they couldn't find anything."

Unfortunately, Walrond did not have a cold, but rather something that would change her life as she knew it.

"After I was diagnosed, I was unable to go to school anymore, which was a big change for me," Wlarond said. "I couldn't practice swimming the way that I wanted to. I really couldn't go anywhere in public because of the germs and my immune system was weak."

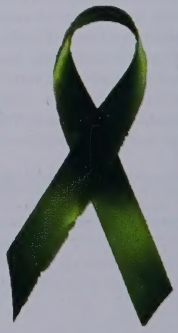
What many do not realize about cancer is how it impacts people's ability to be social. Often, people with cancer are shown in positive environments,

Cancer by the numbers:



>1% of cancer is childhood cancer

60,300 people are anticipated to be diagnosed with Leukemia this year



An average of 1000 people die of Hoddgkins lymphoma every year

surrounded by friends and family at fundraisers, but this is not the everyday reality for those battling cancer.

"When I did go out it was a lot different because I didn't have any hair and people looked at me differently," Walrond said. "It didn't hurt me or anything, it was just a lot different... nobody acted completely normal."

Despite the changes in lifestyle and inability to spend time with friends, the most difficult part of cancer for Walrond was something much more painful.

"The most difficult part (of having cancer) was watching my family go through it," Walrond said. "Watching my mom in the hospital room, sitting next to me while I was getting chemo, knowing that these could be the last few months that she had with me. She tried to hide it, but she just really couldn't."

> **"HE CAME IN AT THE VERY END OF PRACTICE AND SAID THAT I NEEDED TO GET HOME.... HE SAT ME AND MY BROTHER DOWN AND TOLD US THAT HE WAS DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER."**
> **-RYLEY PARKER, STUDENT**

On March 14, 2014 Walrond had her last chemo, a happy day for her, her family, and her friends. It was also a day that allowed her to start looking towards the future.

"I practiced swimming a lot more and I improved a lot with that," Walrond said.

Walrond is not the only athlete at Homestead to be impacted by cancer. Ryley Parker (12), a basketball player has had to watch her coach and father fight cancer since he was diagnosed with kidney cancer in December.

"It was Dec. 4 and he had missed my first practice ever since I was at Homestead," Parker said. "He came in at the very end of practice and said that I needed to get home.... He sat me and my brother down and told us that he was diagnosed with cancer."

After an intensive eight hour surgery, Coach Parker has been able to return to the court; however, there was a struggle to get there.

"It was hard at first not having him (as my basketball coach), he has been coaching me since even before I was at Homestead, but I knew he was still with me even if he wasn't on the sidelines," Parker said. "Coach Ankenbruck did a really good job of coming in, in his place."

The surgery itself was also a terrifying moment for the Parker family.

"That was probably the scariest moment," Parker said. "It was an 8 hour surgery, just waiting there, not knowing. After it was over it was a slow process of him getting back, but we were pretty optimistic in his recovery."

Since his diagnosis, Parker has noticed some changes in her father.

"Physically, (cancer) makes him more aware of his body. He now is so much more aware of how important the body is and he has spent a lot more time thinking about how important it really is."

Additionally, the experience has greatly altered Ryley Parker's outlook on life and her relationships with others.

"Always be kind, always reach out to others that you care about," she said. "You never know when something like this is going to hit. We've had so many prayers and good wishes and those have meant the most."

Her father's cancer has also impacted Parker's goals for the future.

"I am going to study biology and I am planning on going into the medical field," Parker said. "(What my dad has gone through has) definitely has opened my eyes into possibly going into the oncology side of everything."

Thankfully, the future is looking bright for the basketball coach and his daughter.

"They got most of everything," Parker said. "It's now just a waiting game because chemo and radiation are not an option for him due to the type of cancer he has. It is looking good, it's now just making sure it stays that way"

Parker's advice for those watching someone go through cancer is to remain optimistic and supportive.

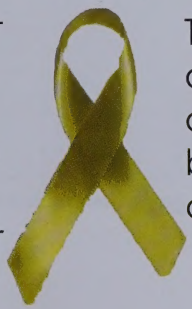
"Just be there for them. Show them that you care and that you are there for them," Parker said.

Despite cancer being a terrifying experience for those with and those watching others go through it, cancer undoubtedly teaches lessons about the value and fragility of life.

"It was really humbling to sit in the (chemo) room and see people that were incredibly sick," Ginder said. "I have watched too many of my friends and peers have horrible experiences with cancer and the treatment that goes with it and lose their lives."

"Now, I have a different outview on life because I am more grateful for the small things that you don't realize you are grateful to have until going through a situation like that," Walrond said.

1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer during their lifetime



The average survival rate for bone cancer is 80%

3 TIPS FOR SUPPORTING SOMEONE WITH CANCER

1. SIMPLE GIFTS

Gifts like blankets can help with chills from chemotherapy. Gifts can be inexpensive, but mean the world.

2. LISTEN

The most helpful thing you can do is lend your ear. Whether for emotional support or at important doctor appointments, another set of ears is important.

3. BE PRESENT

Although it can be difficult to arrange times and places to meet, at minimum show your support via text.

PROJECT 99

Students admit hometown is not as boring as they thought

written by
EMMALYN MEYER
designed by Emmalyn Meyer

In room 117, an incredible idea brews for semesters, and once it is ready, it's poured over a cup of great execution and success and topped with the agreement between teachers, magazine editors, and staff that it will change the way students look at writing.

Jason Beer, English teacher, is changing the image of composition classes for Homestead students through his engaging, enjoyable and exploratory Travel Writing course. But the class itself is not what's new to Homestead - it's his plan to compile 99 essays on the 99 blocks of downtown Fort Wayne. This project, dubbed by many as "Project 99," "The Block Project," "The 99 Blocks," among other epithets, broke ground the past semester and was met with success.

"We had about 75-ish students last year, and I had about 15-20 (essays) that were really solid articles," Beer said with optimism.

In essence, the students in Beer's class are randomly assigned one of the 99 blocks of the metro area. After briefly consulting one of the only in-class resources available, a book called Fort Wayne Through Time by Daniel A. Baker and Randolph L. Harter, the students must find their block, explore the space, learn more from any sources available, and analyze a specific aspect of the location.

"My favorite part of the class was Mr. Beer making us go out and explore more of Fort Wayne and not just research it," Breanna Wise (12) said. "He was really trying to teach us and help us out by making us go out there and experience it for ourselves."

Beer has the liberty to send his students to the field for research due to his limited range of study in the Travel Writing class.

"For one of the essays, we're able to write about any of our travel experiences that we choose – anywhere from local to out of the country," Benjamin Miller (12) said. "But for the most part, the projects take place here in Fort Wayne."

However, this rule of proximity has done wonders to enlighten the students on the expanses of their hometown.

"I looked at our city as super boring before," Maya Mace (11) said. "Downtown (Fort Wayne) is actually super cool, and I really would never have gone there if I didn't take that class, but Mr. Beer encouraged us to go and do things we'd never done before – see new things, experience different cultures and scenery – and I thought that was really cool."

Moreover, the class provides students with a writing education that they either would not have gotten elsewhere or would not have enjoyed elsewhere.

"I wanted to take the travel writing class mostly because literary analysis doesn't hit well with me – it's not my strong suit, and (travel writing) sounded like a more enjoyable writing experience, because I'm able to write about things that I enjoy doing," Miller said.

The block project, in particular, was one of the most enjoyable parts of the semester for both the students and Beer, who had the joy of presenting it for the first time. Through this, he was able to delve into feature writing - as a writer for the Fort Wayne Magazine, he has a general knowledge of the subject, but a lack thereof in teaching it, so it is a challenge to know what boundaries of writing he should cross.

"The hardest thing is the research – I'm trying to figure out a better way of doing that," Beer said. "They should be writing more present stories than they do, but that requires more talking to people, and they didn't sign up for a journalism class, so I can't just make them do that."

Still, this style is attractive to students wanting to stray from the literary analysis of typical English classes. Although Homestead offers other composition courses like creative writing and film, students seem to enjoy having first-hand experience with the content they are writing.

"I like just being put into a new experience and having to create something from it," Mace said.

One of the more prominent takeaways that students had from the block project was a renewed sense of cultural and historical appreciation for the city they had grown up in.

"I definitely learned a lot more about being aware of what used to be in towns and looking more for the history, because not everything that used to be here is still here, and basically anywhere you see a parking lot, the odds are that there used to be something in its place that has some kind of history," Miller said.

Another thing many gained from the project was confidence and flexibility, especially when it comes to trying new things.

"It made me go out of my comfort zone to talk to other people and kind of make different connections I wouldn't have made on my own," Wise said.

Beer's plan for the compilation is to eventually have the ability to publish the students' findings in a book. However, this not only requires extensive funding, but it also involves a lot of time, because Beer demands close to perfection. With every batch of articles he receives from the students, he determines which are good to go, which could use a rewrite, and which demand another student's eye. He then assigns them accordingly.

"My thinking is that I will get 20-25 good articles each semester that I can use, so it will take two years to get 99," Beer said.

In the meantime, though, the classes will be educated as normal - learning and trying new things that allow them to enjoy their town.

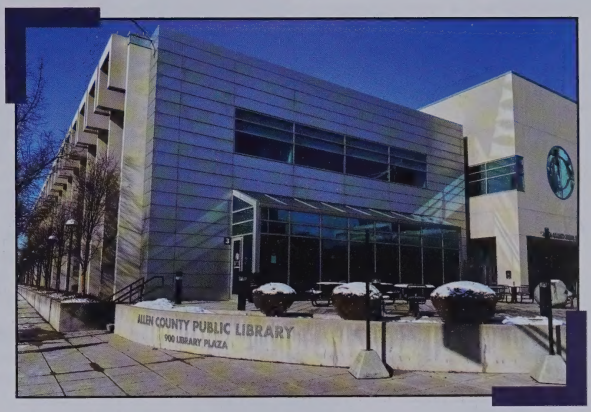
"I think Travel Writing is important because it really opens your eyes to new things; for example, I thought Fort Wayne was boring, but it opened up my eyes to trying out new experiences," Mace said. "Just looking at history and food, there's so much to do downtown – there's so many local events and activities and restaurants to try."

Benjamin Miller

"My block, 83, is actually a parking lot that's right outside of Parkview Field, but it actually used to be a Greyhound bus depot back in the 1930s. I was able to write about the history of that bus depot and why it was eventually torn down and turned into a parking lot for the stadium. It was torn down because eventually the Greyhound company decided to build another depot a few blocks away. Someone owned the property until the 1970s and then it was hardly worth anything with the land and the building, so they just tore it down and turned it into a parking lot for renting out."

Maya Mace

"I had block 56 and it was the Allen County Public Library, the main branch, and the Fort Wayne Firefighter's Museum. I didn't go to the museum because it was closed when I went downtown. I did go a few different dates to look at the library because I went down there and gathered some notes about it and then I got home and started to write my paper and I was like, "this is not enough," so I went back and looked at it again. I just went in the library and looked around, but I was really overwhelmed, because the library is so big, and in your paper you have to focus on one main aspect. I just really focused on the history of the library, and the different places there are to sit at when you walk in. And I didn't know that there was a teen section and other sections, because I had never been down there because we have the one at Coventry. There was also this "Paddles Away" fundraiser that had different paddles that were decorated and hand-painted. I thought that was super neat."



PHOTOS BY EMMALYN MEYER

Brianna Miller

"For the 99 Blocks project, I went out and interviewed the president of the Journal Gazette. My block was the 17th, and it was the Journal Gazette's printing press. I had Julie Inskeep take me through, and she basically gave me a tour of where the printing press was and told me how it worked. I saw all of the newspaper in its original form – it was like a giant receipt paper. It was actually really cool and I enjoyed doing it a lot."

Who's on the Menu?

Take a look at what the Democratic party is serving up this election season.

written by
MATTHEW QUINTOS
designed by Emmalyn Meyer

This year, many seniors will have the opportunity to vote for the first time in the upcoming presidential election. Homestead has two active political groups in our school: Young Progressives and Young Americans for Freedom. On January 31st, the two groups held a voter registration meeting, signing up over 20 Homestead students interested in voting. Guest speakers like Councilman Jason Arp, Allen County Democrats Vice-Chair Brandon Blumenhurst and Allen County Democrats Secretary Karen Sherman put aside their political differences and spoke on the importance of voting.

While many of us follow the presidential election quite closely, we often remain disengaged during the primary season. This may be due to the fact that Indiana is one of the last states to hold a primary, meaning our votes have less of a critical influence on a party's candidate selection. However, many Homestead students are excited about their opportunity to vote and hopeful that their candidates can do well in the primaries.

"I support Andrew Yang because he is the candidate that most emphasizes the average American. His policies focus on solving actual problems like the rise of automation and the declining mental health of our nation. Additionally, his policies on gun control, climate change, and UBI are both progressive and realistic," Sam Hutner (11) said.

Iowa always begins the primary season in American presidential elections, due in part to its unique caucus system. This caucus system differs from every primary state in the country. In order for supporters to show their preferences, they must participate in the Iowa caucus.

The Iowa caucus entails a meeting of people to physically stand in a room on the side of their candidate. Each candidate must reach a 15% voting threshold to be considered a viable candidate at every caucus site. If their candidate does not meet the threshold, supporters must either leave or join with supporters from another candidate.

The results of the Iowa caucuses were rather chaotic this year, with a buggy app and long hold times for precincts to report their results, contributing to the delayed results and confusion within the party. However, the integrity of the vote remains as each precinct has paper copies of the caucusing results. Despite the confusion over the delayed results, Iowa traditionally serves as an early sign of a campaign's future viability.

Candidates who underperform in early primary states lose voter confidence, see their fundraising abilities hindered, and as a result, can be unable to continue financing their campaign. Iowa's results had Pete Buttigieg winning the delegate count, the traditional method of classifying a candidate as a winner. Bernie Sanders, however, won the popular vote by over 6,000 votes, doing especially well with younger voters.

These sentiments from Iowa appear to be echoed at Homestead from more liberal leaning voters. Bernie Sanders' supporters view their candidate as a champion of working class families and someone who cares about the struggles of the average person.

"I would choose Sanders, as he has been steadfast in his beliefs and advocacy efforts. His advocacy for working class Americans specifically is refreshing and far overdue," Olivia Schenkel (10) said.

Sofi Jimenez echoed this sentiment with her reasoning as to why she supports Bernie Sanders, invoking her unique immigrant background.

"Coming from a family of immigrants myself, I really appreciate the openness and acceptance that Bernie offers to immigrants. Bernie also focuses on reducing the price of health care, which I see affect people every day in my life," Sofi Jimenez (11) said.

While Bernie Sanders may be the candidate of choice for young voters, he is far from the only progressive candidate to attract the political interest of Homestead students.

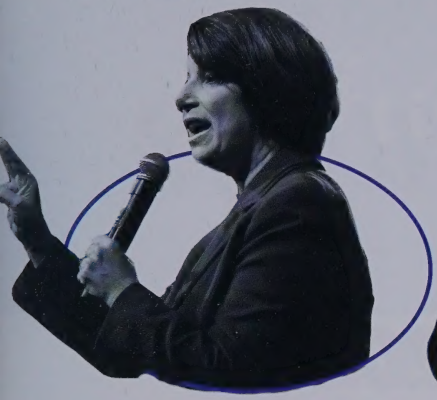
"I support Elizabeth Warren because she has a long record of dedicated public service. I agree with her plans for healthcare and college. In addition, I like that she supports all Americans, and is willing to fight for our environment," Ben Burkle (10) said.

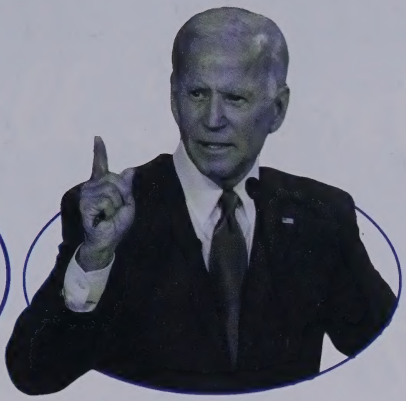
Additionally, Pete Buttgieg appears to have strong support, not only in Iowa and New Hampshire, but at Homestead as well. This may not be much of a surprise, seeing as he is a fellow Hoosier. His supporters tend to view him as a progressive moderate, unifying the party for the general election.

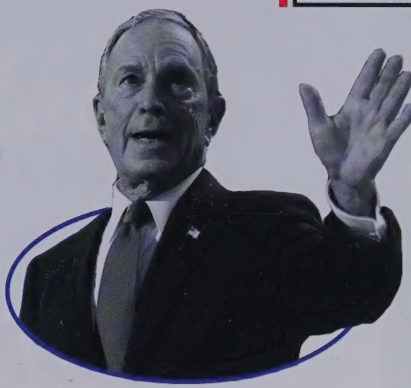
With the South Carolina primary fast approaching on February 29th and polls predicting a near dead heat between Bernie Sanders and Joe Biden, the race for the nomination is only beginning.

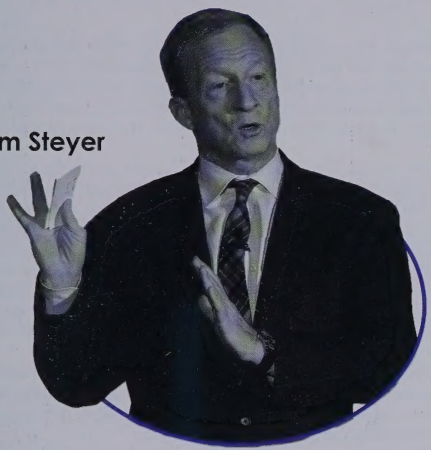
According to the Pew Research Center, Gen Z and millenials (ages 24 to 39) will make up nearly 37% of voters in the 2020 election. An Economist/YouGov poll taken between February 9th and February 11th found that over 60% of Democrats younger than 30 support either Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren. With younger Democrats increasingly liberal, this election could see a more progressive candidate representing the party in the general election.

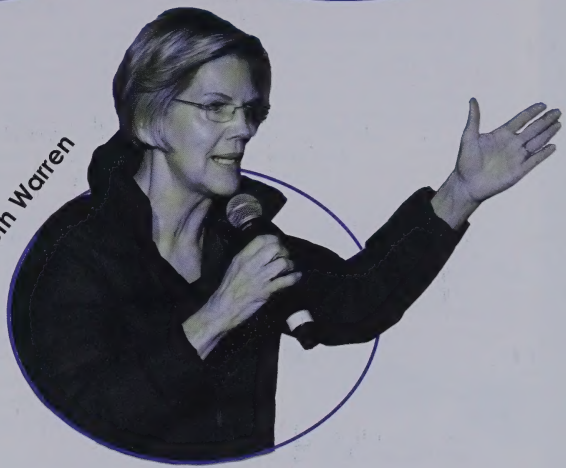
With the differing results of New Hampshire, Iowa and Nevada, the likelihood of a brokered convention seems more of a possibility. This primary season has been characterized by high tensions between the progressive and moderate wings of the party. Amy Klobuchar, Pete Buttigieg and Joe Biden are leading the moderate wing of the party. The more progressive side of the party includes Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. In order to unite in the general election, Democrats must work through their ideological differences or face the consequences in the general election.

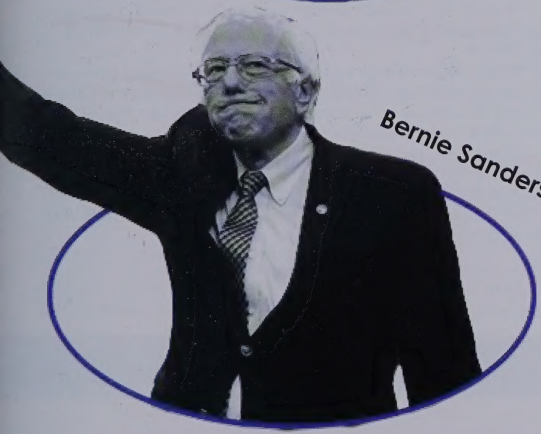


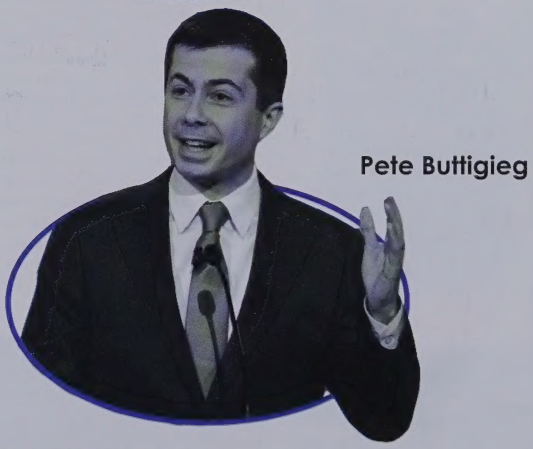












The remaining Democratic presidential candidates are locked in a tough race to the Democratic nomination, and the road has only just begun. Thus far, Buttigieg is in the lead with 23 delegates after the Iowa caucus and the N.H. primary. Sanders is at his tail with 21 delegates, a virtual tie in the Iowa caucus and a win in the N.H. primary. Right behind them are Warren with 8 delegates, Klobuchar with 7, and Biden with 6. As we head into the Nev. caucus and S.C. primary - two states that will determine candidates' performance with minority voters - there's no telling what will happen in this intense race to the nomination. [Disclosure - these results are reported as of February 19th, 2020.]

Leap Years - What, When, Why?

Is there really any more to it than an extra day in the life?

2016 → 2020

Written by
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If it wasn't already made to be known, this year is a leap year. They happen once every four years- and it's a year that has 366 days instead of 365- which should be classified as torture because 365 days is already enough to handle. Every leap year, you get an extra day tacked on to February, giving it 29 instead of 28, and 366 days on the year instead of 365. Most people don't know we get an extra day of school during leap years, and some probably don't even know what a leap year is.

Leap years are like, totally definitely cool. They are an integral part of keeping the Gregorian calendar intact. It takes 365.25 days to revolve around the sun, so naturally, every four years we get an extra day so as to not throw the entire calendar off (if they never made leap years we might have had Summer in December). Their rarity as well as the small amount of people actually born on the extra day garner it some attention.

If you couldn't tell by my extensively enthusiastic explanation, I'm indifferent on leap years. The sparsity is almost inconvenient- how weird is it that once every four years you get a random extra day? Should we treat it as some sort of holiday? That wouldn't be too bad, but the rarity makes it sort of an oddity.

"The rarity makes it just a little bit intriguing- not on the level of wanting to waste time to research it, more like an 'oh cool, it's a leap year' kind of thing," said Brycton Volmer (10).

People born on leap years are just about the only people who support making leap years- specifically the elusive Feb. 29th- a national holiday, but unfortunately, I couldn't find any "leapers" (nickname for people born on leap years) who go to Homestead to interview about what it might mean to them, so I'll admit that there is a lack of representation.

One rumor about leap years is that because of the extra day in the year, there's also an extra day of school- but that's not true. You might be able to have school on Feb. 29th, but you will still only have school 180 out of 366 days, so there's nothing to worry about there.

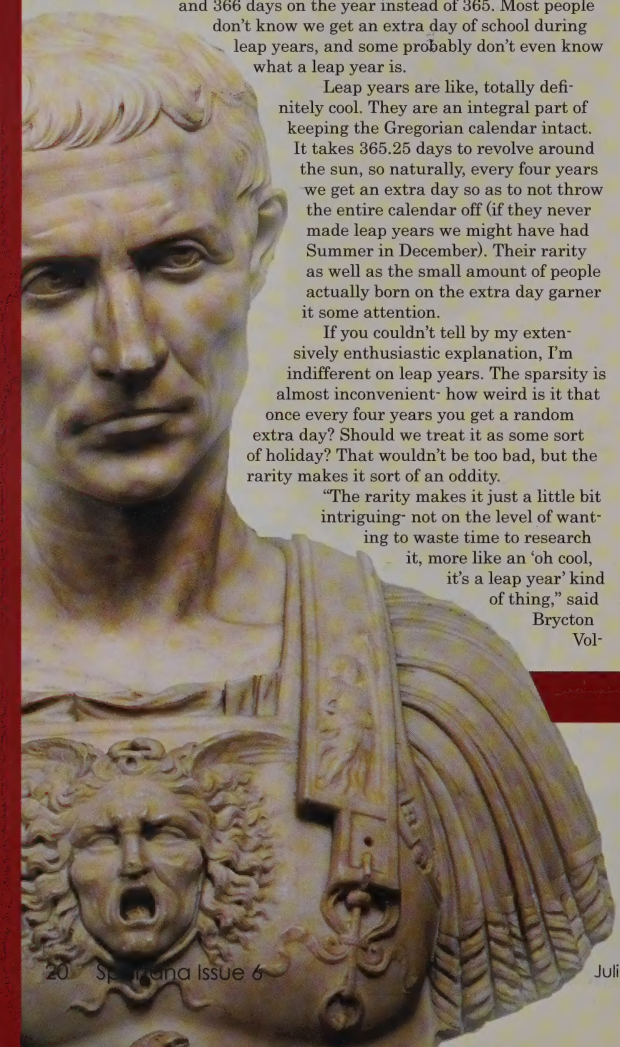
The joke about people born on Feb. 29th "turning one" when they turn four, four when they turn 16 and all that is not true. While Feb. 29th is their birthday, they still are one year old 365 days after Feb. 29th, and can still celebrate their birthday on Feb. 29th even though they will actually have turned however many years old the day before.

The scarcity of leap years still seems to make them deserving of some sort of recognition even though, after all, Feb. 29th is just another day in the life (unless it's your birthday, and in that case have a great time celebrating it).

"I think that enough people, counting the 4 million-ish leapers, might just make it cool enough for it to be a holiday," said Keely Groholski (10).

"I don't think they're all that special, one more day in a year might mean one more day of melancholy routine for someone out there, but February 29th has to be someone's birthday, so I guess that adds a bit of virtue to it," said Trevor Haines (10).

So after all the interviews, it seems like people are still pretty undecided on the importance of leap years. It's really just a matter of perspective. It's up to you to decide what they mean. To me, it's just another day, an extra 24 hours. The question still stands- is there really any more to it?



Julius Caesar, inventor of the Leap Year

A Full Rundown

Every Leap Year- 2020, 2016, 2012, 2008, 2004, etc.

# of People born on Leap Day (circa 2019)- 4.8 mil

Probability of having Leap Day B-day- 1/1461 or .07%

# of Leap Days since Introduction to Calendar- 104

Leap Year was invented by Julius Ceasar

First ever Leap Year- 45 BC (corrected in the Gregorian Calendar, first modern Leap Year was in 1582)

Leap Years always coincide with U.S. election years

The Columbidae Manifesto

Written by
Claire Elliott
Designed by
Claire Elliott

An investigation into the differing reputations of Doves and Pigeons

Doves. Did you think of purity, nature and even happiness? Or did you think of the Pope, weddings and magic tricks?

Doves, however "harmless" they might be, represent a much darker truth. Part of the Columbidae genus, doves share close relations with the infamous pigeon. Pigeons, on the other hand, bring out thoughts of dirt, annoyance and stupidity. One of the only visible differences between the two is plumage, which also characterizes each species.

"Why are doves a symbol of pureness? I just don't understand that. What if they attack people?" Emma Godinez (10) said.

Doves have gained their power and so-called "purity" in society with methods like many others: appearance and the Church. For centuries, doves have symbolized peace in Christianity, often carrying an olive branch. In reality, doves' nature is quite different.

According to Wild Bird Watching.com, doves will often lay eggs in the abandoned nests of other birds. The "aristocracy" of the forest cannot even work for themselves, instead flourishing of the work of lowly "pheasants." Although uncommon, doves will even steal active nests from the other birds.

"I HATE THEM. THEY FILL ME WITH A SENSE OF ANGER," DANIEL KNECHT (10) SAID, "I HATE THEM WITH PASSION AND VENGEANCE." He is so infuriated that he cannot even explain why. He is at a loss for words.

Knecht is not alone in his rage. The species of doves, with no drastic genetic difference, continues to take advantage of the avian proletariat.

"The pigeons clean up after people" Godinez said, and her observation is quite true. Americans have been thriving off of the services of pigeons since the early 1600s. In the ancient world, pigeons were used for their navigational skills. Although they have been ingrained in our culture for centuries, pigeons have yet to gain the respect they deserve.

In fact, pigeons ultimately reduce the amount of food waste in cities, as they will often eat scraps out of the trash to survive. Although their work is beneficial, humans continue to see pigeons in a negative light.

Pigeons are seen for their "dirty" and "dumb" actions, and not for the reasons behind them. According to Emma Bryce in her article "Why Are There So Many Pigeons," she explains that pigeons resilience in finding food comes from the effort to support their young. Pigeons are capable of nesting up to ten chicks.

On the other hand, doves, at the first sight of danger, will abandon their chicks and not return to the nest.

Doves repeatedly show NO WORK ETHIC or resilience in life, yet still maintain their pristine reputation by living off of the trust fund of human sympathies.

Ironically enough, companies like Dove, both the shampoo and chocolate, have ethical values, unlike the birds. Doves have infiltrated the human mind to the extent that corporations market doves, hoping to see a positive reaction.

Pigeons do not receive such respect. In a superbowl Nissan commercial, pigeons are depicted as ruthless criminals, attempting to take out a Nissan, ruining people's lives along the way. This CRUEL PROPAGANDA is only one example of pigeon's branding.

Unfortunately, such prejudice leads to horrific actions. The passenger pigeon, a migratory, colorful bird, was cruelly put into extinction by humans. Before being hunted out of existence, the birds were the largest group in America. The passenger pigeon was a harmless, friendly creature who was wronged. The modern "street" pigeon receives no less persecution.

Day after day, pigeons get called "rats with wings," which would actually be a bat (no shade to bats). When will malice turn to violence, like the resting passenger pigeon?

So, the question must be asked again.

"What's the difference between a dove and a pigeon?" Lauren Hans (11) said.

"Men still live who, in their youth, remember pigeons; trees still live who, in their youth, were shaken by a living wind. But a few decades hence only the oldest oaks will remember, and at long last only the hills will know."

–Aldo Leopold, "On a Monument to the Pigeon," 1947

1. Pope Francis releasing a dove in 2014.